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30 killed in Baku rampage

Troops flown in after anti-Armenian rioting

MOSCOW, Jan 14, (Agencies): At least 30 people have been killed in anti-Armenian rioting in Baku, the Azerbaijan capital, and clashes continued today despite the presence of a division of Soviet Interior Ministry troops flown in to quell the violence.

The Soviet news agency Tass reported that the situation in a number of districts had "gone out of control."

"Gangs of hoodlums have been committing atrocities. Preliminary information puts pregnant woman," he said.

Local journalists in Baku said armed gangs of Azerbaijani militants, with lists of Armenians' addresses, were patrolling the city streets and officials warned the death toll could rise.

Tass said police were standing and watching indifferently as looters plundered houses, scattering belongings in the street.

"Up above, we could see doors to a balcony thrown open, possessions being thrown out. A bit further on we came across more belongings chucked out of another apartment. Then, lying in the mud, a colour photograph of a woman and a little boy."

Shakhmurov said he had received reports of other disturbances directed against Armenians in various parts of Azerbaijan, but gave no details.

The last night killings in Baku were the worst outbreak in nearly two years of Armenian-Azerbaijani violence, the bloodiest of the ethnic conflicts that plague the Soviet Union.

The rampage prompted a call in Armenia for people who possess firearms to volunteer to be flown to Azerbaijan.

The mostly Christian Armenia and predominantly Muslim Azerbaijan have been locked in a feud over control of Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave of about 160,000 people who are mostly ethnic Armenian but which has been under Azerbaijan's control since 1923.

Radio Moscow said the yesterday's rampage began after two Azerbaijanis visited an Armenian family and demanded they leave the city. The family attacked the Azerbaijanis with an axe, killing one and seriously injuring the other, the report said.

"News of the killing was announced at about 10.30 pm and was attended by about 150,000 people, the radio said."

"Calls were made at the rally to drive the Armenians out of the city," the radio's correspondent reported from the Caspian Sea port city.

"When the rally ended the crowd began to disperse," Radio Moscow said in its Russian-language broadcast. "Among the crowd, anti-Armenian slogans were shouted, and then the most terrible thing of all began — the pogroms."

In the ensuing violence, 25 people were killed, said the official news agency Tass. Radio Moscow said 22 were killed and another 26 were injured. Both media said the victims were mostly Armenians.

A Russian resident of Baku told the Associated Press by telephone she saw at least two women thrown from the balconies of apartment houses and saw an old woman shot pointblank in the head and chest.

"You can't imagine, I've just seen death for the first time in my life," said the woman, speaking anonymously.

Although the bloodshed has prompted many Armenians to leave Azerbaijan, a mass exodus, Alexander Argamasyan, said about 20,000 ethnic Armenians, mostly old people, still live in Baku.

Argamasyan said an estimated 250,000 people rallied to leave Armenia in the capital today. He said Vano Syragdyan, a member of the movement's directorate, called on Armenians who possess firearms to volunteer to be flown by helicopter to two districts of Azerbaijan near Nagorno-Karabakh where ethnic Azerbaijanis reportedly are under attack.

Tass reported the day of the riots that "groups of hoodlum elements" had rampaged to Baku, a petroleum-producing city of 1.7 million people, and said there were deaths.

Radio Moscow said 53 apartments were wrecked in the rampage. The situation in the city 2,000 kilometres (1,240 miles) southeast of Moscow remains tense, its Baku correspondent said.

the number of dead at 30 in 50 separate pogroms," the agency said.

Tass reported that several Ilyushin-76 transport planes carrying troops from the Interior Ministry's Dzerzhinsky division had flown into Baku from Moscow early today to try to restore order.

Eduard Shakhmurov, an editor at the official Armenian news agency Armenpress, told Reuters by telephone from the republic's capital, Yerevan, that 30 people had been killed in the Baku riots, all Armenians.

"Three were burned alive after petrol was poured over them. One of them was a



Picture left shows bodies of revellers who died at a disco in Zaragoza, Spain, lie side by side and at right two unidentified family members cry after identifying the body of one of their family members among the victims. (Reuters wirephoto)



Flames and toxic fumes engulf disco

43 perish in Spanish fire

ZARAGOZA, Jan 14, (Agencies): Investigators believe toxic fumes killed 43 people after fire broke out today at a discotheque in the northern city of Zaragoza.

Central government representative Carlos Perez Anadon told reporters at a news conference that many of the victims died almost instantly as they sat in the flying discotheque's basement lounge listening to a local band.

He said the quick deaths and preliminary autopsies led to a "working hypothesis" that the early morning fire had produced hydrocyanic acid, a chemical used to make acrylics that, according to a Spanish national radio report, may have been contained in the disco's decor. Flames and toxic fumes engulfed the disco, turning the crowded nightspot into a giant gas chamber.

"The experts are inclined to believe there was not enough smoke inhaled to cause death," Perez Anadon said. Officials have speculated earlier that the victims had died of smoke inhalation.

"One of the hypotheses being considered is poisoning by hydrocyanic acid," he said,

adding the official cause of death would be determined after autopsies were completed.

Deputy Mayor Luis Garcia Nieto said firefighters arrived eight minutes after they received news of the fire at 2.40 am (0140 GMT) and put it out in 15 minutes. But he added rescue workers were able to do little to help those still inside.

Officials said one fire victim remained in full compliance of the laws, according to regular inspections carried out by the city, but added the fire laws prohibited the use of materials containing hydrocyanic acid.

At the news conference, officials said city fire regulations were among the strictest in the country.

A waitress who escaped injury told the national news agency EFE the fire blocked one of the two stairways leading up to the street from the basement, which contained a lounge, a dance floor and a bar.

"I smelled something burning, and in seconds nobody could get out," said the waitress. She escaped up the main stairway after seeing the emergency steps were blocked by flames.

Bank merger on the cards

Laying base to widen activities

KUWAIT Central Bank Governor, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah has disclosed that plans are underway to go ahead with an economic committee proposal to merge some banks and financial institutions.

Sheikh Salem said: "Some banks and investment companies would soon be merged and will be supported by the Central Bank."

Banking circles are abuzz with reports of the merger of three leading financial institutions. They said plans are underway to form a mega-bank to spur investments, both foreign and local.

Burgan Bank Chairman, Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al Ahmad last week denied the reports in an interview with an Arabic newspaper.

Sheikh Ahmad said his bank's major shareholder the Public Authority for Investments had not "expressed its intention" to merge the Burgan Bank with "other financial institutions."

Reliable sources, however, said the proposed merger of banks, which will be announced shortly, would be implemented in phases and is to be completed by 1991.

The mega-bank will be formed to act as a disbursing agent to promote funds inside and outside Kuwait. It will also act as a loan-giving and investment agency.

Sheikh Salem, who is also chairman of the joint economic report follow-up committee, said some "local banks and investment establishments" would soon be merged.

Speaking at a seminar organised by an Arabic newspaper, he said the merger falls under recommendations made by the economic report, unveiled in the last week of December by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Sheikh Salem said: "The merger would (lay the foundation) of a grand base for Kuwaiti financial institutions to spread their activities worldwide."

There are far too many commercial banks at present and their "perfect number should be three or four", he added.

Sheikh Salem said a majority of the recommendations made by the economic report would be implemented by the end of March.

Banks are also studying a proposal to give low interest housing loans to Kuwaitis.

Plotters face murder trial

Cory talks tough on graft

MANILA, Jan 14, (AP): The military chief of staff has approved recommendations that two generals and 19 other officers be charged with murder and mutiny in connection with last month's coup attempt, the military said today.

President Corason Aquino thanked foreign governments for expressing their support for her during the military mutiny and said there will be no more bids to grab power if her government succeeds in undertaking reforms.

She accused rebel leaders of being "mercenary grabbers for power" who were the "lavishly funded officers of the mutiny."

She did not elaborate.

Armed forces Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa approved a recommendation by a high-level military investigating committee to prosecute Air Force Brig. Gen. Jose Comandador, Army Brig. Gen. Marcelo Blando and 19 other officers arrested after the failed Dec 19 coup.

Under Philippine law, they must undergo a pretrial investigation before formal charges are filed. The officers include two navy captains, one colonel, seven lieutenant colonels, three majors, five captains and one first lieutenant. Twelve belong to the army.

The military said about 3,000 rebel soldiers took part in the coup attempt, the sixth and most serious bid to topple Mrs Aquino.

The fighting left at least 113 people dead and more than 500 wounded.

Commandador seized the Maetan air force base in Cebu, 560 kms (350 miles) south of Manila, on the first day of the rebellion and held out until Dec 9.

Blando, the commander of the elite 7th infantry division, was called in to reinforce loyal troops but joined the rebels, De Villa said in a recent television interview.

Another rebel officer, Lt. Col. Rafael Galvez, led about 500 army scout rangers who seized several high-rise apartments and hotels, trapping about 1,600 guests in Manila's financial district of Makati for four days.

Galvez and his forces later surrendered.

The military investigating panel said three air force officers — Capt. Elmer Amon, Capt. Vergel Nacion and 1st Lt. Joey Sarroza — piloted World War II vintage T-28 planes that bombed the Malacanang presidential palace, the armed forces headquarters and a television station on the first day of the



Aquino

coup attempt.

The rebel aircraft were later destroyed by government fighter planes, and US F-4 Phantom jets flew air cover for loyal troops.

In a speech at a luncheon for foreign diplomats, Aquino said foreign governments demonstrated "in terms most timely and telling, the verity of that proven saying about the infinite value of a friend in the hour of need."

"Our hour of need came when mercenary grabbers for power struck our government, she said, recalling how cabinet secretaries drove to a television centre inside the palace compound to air the phoned messages of support by foreign governments.

Aquino threatened to fire dishonest government officials, saying "wholesale corruption has no place" in her government.

In her weekly radio call-in show, Aquino warned public officials and employees they would be punished if they "stole the people's money."

"I reiterate that wholesale corruption and whatever sort of irregularity has no place in my government," Aquino said.

In an interview today, a general said the military discovered the plot in Juoc and moved against rebels' recruiting among young officers, who achieved a "certain measure of tactical surprise" only because some commanders ignored intelligence reports of the impending rebellion.

Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, chief of the Philippine Constabulary, said key rebel leaders were driven by "personal ambition" and tried to recruit field commanders.

"They were senior officers who did not have troops," Montano said. "The important thing was for us to face junior officers who have commands."

Iranian say on mediation shortly

NICOSIA, Jan 14, (AP): Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said today that Tehran will announce a final decision soon on the Soviet Union's offer to mediate in deadlocked peace talks with Iraq, Tehran radio reported.

The state radio, quoted Velayati as saying the Iranians will consider "positively" Moscow's proposal and that its decision will be submitted to a senior Soviet envoy who will visit Tehran soon.

Velayati said that "Iran accepts the proposal in principle," but warned that "it must not in any way undermine" the United Nations Security Council resolution.

Peace talks began five days later, but have stalled on disputes over troop withdrawals, exchange of prisoners and sovereignty of the Shatt al-Arab waterway that forms the southern boundary between the two countries.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov announced last week that Tehran and Baghdad had responded to Moscow's offer to mediate.

Moscow has stressed that its proposal does not mean that the United Nations, which had been mediating the talks, had been sidelined.

Bomb wrecks diplomatic car

ANKARA, Jan 14, (Reuters): A bomb wrecked a Saudi Arabian diplomatic car in Ankara today but there were no injuries, police said.

The car was parked near the Kuwaiti embassy building on a main road in the residential Gaziosmanpasa district when the explosive device went off, a district police officer told Reuters.

"The car was a Saudi Arabian diplomatic vehicle. Another car nearby was also damaged and several windows panned in nearby houses were broken but no one was hurt," he said.

Risk of heart attacks

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Jan 14, (Reuters): Among people aged 55 to 74, more women than men have high cholesterol levels which increase the risk of heart disease, the American Heart Association said today.

"A surprisingly high number of women in all age groups have been found to have elevated serum cholesterol," the association said in its annual report on heart diseases and stroke.

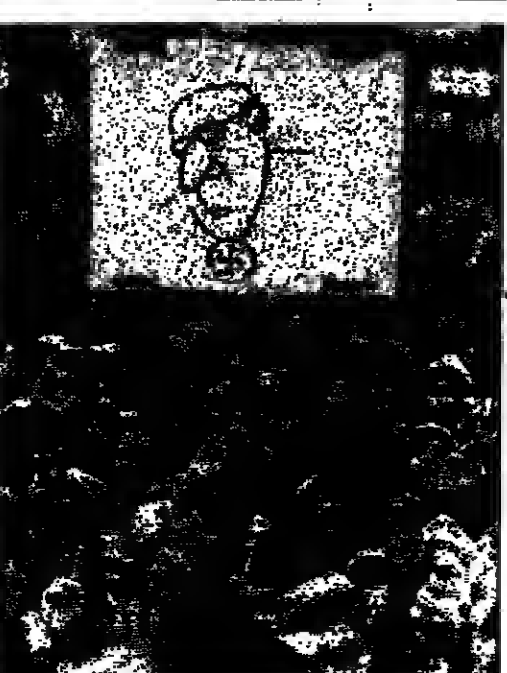
Between the ages of 25 and 44, more men than women have high cholesterol levels, but the trend is reversed in both younger and older age groups, the group said.

The risk of heart attacks and strokes is at its highest for both sexes between the ages of 65 and 74, the association said.

According to the US National Institute of Health, middle-aged have a high risk of heart disease.

Sofia rally for democracy

Call to end communist monopoly



Bulgarian demonstrators hold up a big cartoon of ousted leader Todor Zhivkov during a rally in Sofia. (Reuters wirephoto)

SOFIA, Jan 14, (Reuters): More than 50,000 cheering, banner-waving Bulgarians rallied in central Sofia today to denounce the ruling communists and call for the opposition to be given more time to organise for full free elections.

The crowd, shouting "unity" and "down with the Bulgarian Communist Party" cheered as leading opposition activist Petar Beron read a list of demands to be made at round-table talks with party officials, due to begin on Tuesday.

These included a proposal that full parliamentary elections called for May should be postponed until November. Speakers demanded partial elections in May to replace parliamentarians compromised under former leader Todor Zhivkov.

"We will prepare 100 to 120 representatives for election in May," opposition activist Lubomir Sobajiev shouted to the ecstatic crowd from the icy steps of the Alexander Nevski Cathedral. "These people will be our force inside the national assembly."

Western diplomats at the Sofia rally said it was the opposition's largest show of strength since its first protest on Nov 17.

One diplomat said opposition activists were letting the government know "they are still here, still paying attention and still not content. The speeches are short and right to the point, addressing legal issues and the economy."

See Also Page 7

Weather

PARTLY cloudy weather with light variable to moderate northeasterly wind.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 2.00 am, 3.00 pm

Low water: 9.00 am, 10.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.43 am

Sunset: 5.11 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 12°C 54°F

Amman: 11°C 52°F

Falaka: 12°C 54°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 6°C 43°F

Amman: 1°C 34°F

Falaka: 1°C 34°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 14°C 57°F

Amman: 12°C 54°F

Falaka: 13°C 55°F

Minimum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 65 per cent

Amman: 65 per cent

Falaka: 62 per cent



Columbia commander Dan Brandenstein (left) talks to reporters as the rest of the crew looks on during an inflight press conference. (Reuters wirephoto)

Crew soars past halfway point

Columbia astronauts busy with medical and science experiments

SPACE CENTRE, Houston, Jan 14, (AP): The US space shuttle Columbia's astronauts were busy with medical and science experiments today as they soared past the halfway point of what a flight director called a "flawless flight."

Near the midpoint, the crew was beaming to earth a television shot of mission specialist Marsh Ivins checking David Low with an echocardiograph, a device which generates a two-dimensional, cross-section image of the heart.

It is one of many experiments the astronauts are conducting to determine how well

the human body adapts to weightlessness in space.

Columbia, launched on Tuesday, is scheduled to land at 1059 GMT Friday at Edwards Air Force base, California.

Assessing the first half of the trip, flight director Al Pennington said "it has been a flawless flight. We have a beautifully running orbiter."

The 10-day flight is the second longest shuttle mission yet and is intended as a stepping stone toward even longer shuttle flights and months-long trips aboard space station Freedom.

Commander Dan Brandenstein, pilot Jim Wetherbee and mission specialist Bonnie Dunbar, Ivins and Low were continuing experiments begun the day of launch, including Imaax movie camera observations of selected locations on Earth.

"This is the second-longest shuttle mission that we've had so far, so we can do some good materials science experiments up here and we can also get some very good medical data," Low said yesterday.

One experiment, involving melting and

resolidifying a metal, broke down on Friday when a crack developed in a glass container, probably because of overheating. But Pennington said today that experts on the ground had worked out a solution to the problem and the astronauts were working to resume operation of the experiment.

The glass container, called an ampul, contains the element indium, a metal that melts at a relatively low temperature. It had been feared that the cracked glass could shatter, sending shards of glass floating around the cabin.

Violent protests in Seoul

Radicals teargassed

SEOUL, Jan 14, (AP): Riot police fired tear-gas and clashed today with hundreds of anti-government demonstrators who surged through a fashionable shopping district in Seoul.

More than 100 student demonstrators were arrested during clashes that lasted for two hours and trapped hundreds of shoppers in boutiques and shops. There were unspecified injuries, but details

were not available.

The clashes began after about 700 slogan-shouting demonstrators were blocked from holding a rally to commemorate the death of a student from police torture three years ago.

"Drive out the yankees," the students shouted. "Overthrow (President) Roh Tae-Woo."

At one point, a group of demonstrators attacked about 40 riot police who had encircled 20 students and forced them to kneel on the street until they could be detained.

"Fie," screamed one student, who grabbed a policeman's helmet.

The police officers pummelled some of the demonstrators with fists and shields, and they fought back, kicking and screaming.

As riot police fired tear-gas grenades in the narrow streets, stores closed and shoppers fled, coughing and choking on the acrid smoke.

One plainclothes policeman who chased a protester into a fried chicken restaurant was run out by customers, who tried to seize the fleeing officer by his coat.

The students demanded that Roh resign and former president Chun Doo-Hwan be punished. They also demanded the withdrawal of the 43,000 US troops stationed in South Korea under a mutual defence pact.

Radical students, a small but vocal minority on university campuses, have called for the punishment of Roh and his predecessor, Chun.

Radicals hold both responsibility for a government crackdown on the 1980 civil uprising in Kwangju that left at least 200 dead and 1,500 wounded.

Students also staged violent protests yesterday in Kwangju, a provincial city south of the capital.

Sunday's rally was planned to commemorate the death of Park Chong-Chol, a university student whose death by torture in 1987 touched off nationwide protests. Police had banned the rally.

The protesters also denounced a recent political compromise between the ruling and opposition parties to end a long feud over investigations into alleged corruption during the autocratic Chun administration.

Bodies of boat people found

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 14, (AP): Nine more decomposed bodies believed to be of Vietnamese "boat people" were found today along the Trengganu coast, bringing the total found in the past two days to 23, a news report said.

The bodies were believed to be of Vietnamese who drowned after their boat sank off the Trengganu coast, the national news agency Bernama quoted police and hospital sources as saying.

Fourteen bodies were found yesterday along the coast, 300 kilometres (180 miles) northeast of Kuala Lumpur.

Bernama quoted a police spokesman as saying police and villagers had taken the bodies to a hospital.



Savuka performs

Johnny Clegg (right), known to fans as the 'White Zulu', and his South African band Savuka perform during a concert in Johannesburg at the start of a world tour that will take them to North and South America, Australia, the Far East, Europe and Soviet Union. (Reuters wirephoto)

White police kill black constable

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 14, (AP): A black policeman died after three white colleagues severely beat him and left him bleeding outside the station gates, today's newspapers reported.

Police today confirmed the Dec 29 death of constable Mthakazeli Sangweni. They said the incident has been investigated and the attorney-general would decide whether anyone should be charged with murder.

The three white officers had not been suspended from duty and police had not reported the case.

In response to the newspaper reports, police issued a statement today saying Sangweni had pointed his firearm at an officer as three superiors were speaking to him about an unspecified "disciplinary matter." Police said the constable then "was tackled and overpowered."

He later died in hospital, "apparently from a head injury sustained in the incident," said the police statement given to the independent South African Press Association, which distributed it.

The police had no comment on reports from the lawyers for human rights group that Sangweni was dumped, bleeding from the nose and mouth, outside the police station, where he lay until fellow black officers called an ambulance.

Sunday newspapers said the case came to light when some of the black policemen approached the lawyers' group, which has called for suspension of the three white officers.

One newspaper, City Press, said one of the officers is the commander of the police station.

The newspaper gave differing accounts, but said the argument involved whether Sangweni had properly performed his job of keeping the police station gate locked.

Quoting Brian Currin of Lawyers for Human Rights, the Sunday Star said black officers on the scene reported that Sangweni refused to turn over his firearm to the three white officers, but denied he had pointed it at any of them.

City Press said he was assaulted with fists, kicked and hit on the head.

In an unrelated development, the military leader of one of South Africa's semi-autonomous tribal homelands was quoted as saying a black South African policeman and another black man were arrested while on a mission to assassinate him.

Maj. Gen. Buntu Holomisa of Transkei met last week with South African President F.W. de Klerk, who urged him to end military rule as soon as possible and hold elections. Holomisa took over the Xhosa-speaking territory after a series of corruption scandals involving the previous rulers.

India set for state polls

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, Jan 14: All major political parties in India have begun preparations for the coming elections in about 10 state assemblies, which are being described as a "mini-general poll".

Simultaneously, Lok Sabha elections are also likely to be held in Assam, where they could not be held in November along with the other states during the general elections.

The Election Commission is expected to announce the poll schedule next week, soon after the completion of the revision of electoral rolls, for which Jan 15 had been set as the deadline.

States where elections are due are Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab and Rajasthan. They are also due in the Union Territories of Delhi and Pondicherry.

In violence-torn Punjab, the Election Commission will decide on holding of elections after the centre and the state government make an assessment of the situation. In Assam, elections could not be held in November because revised electoral rolls were not ready. They have since been completed.

Yesterday, the President dissolved the Delhi Metropolitan Council, ending several days of speculation in the capital on the subject. The council's term had been extended twice by a year each after its original tenure ended in March, 1988. There has been a long-standing demand from several quarters that Delhi should be given the status of a state and that it should have a legislative assembly. The government is under pressure to take any early decision on the future set-up in Delhi. Though statehood seems unlikely, the Union Territory may be given an assembly. It is possible that Delhi may also go to the polls some time towards the end of February with the other states.

The coming elections assume importance because it will be the first major test for all parties after the last general elections and will provide some indication of the people's assessment of the National Front government's performance so far. Further, the Front will seek to repeat the success it achieved in the general elections while the Congress will make a definite bid to prove that it is on the comeback trail.

As in the general elections, the National Front's strategy would be to ensure one-to-one contests against the Congress to avoid division of votes amongst its constituents and allies.

Yesterday, the political affairs committee and the central parliamentary board of the Front's main constituent — the Janata Dal — met in the capital to chalk out the party's electoral strategy. The party also finalised a schedule to choose its candidates for the elections.

The party has left the question of seat adjustments with other parties to its state units because "ground realities" differ from state to state. But political observers feel that the party might face some difficulties on this score this time, especially with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which will be talking from a position of strength after its remarkable show in the last election.

NEWS BRIEF

Republic Day parade: India will display some sophisticated military equipment for the first time at this year's Republic Day in Delhi on Jan 26.

These include Flycatcher radars, Troposcatter, Strella 10-M anti-aircraft missile system and anti-tank guided missiles. The Flycatcher, as the name suggests, catches all that flies. The Troposcatter provides speedy and secure multi-channel communication.

The anti-tank guided missile can destroy known main battle tanks up to a distance of two kilometres. There will also be a float of Siachen to depict the world's highest battlefield where temperature falls up to 50 degrees below freezing point.

The Indian navy will depict models during the parade of some of the indigenous built ships like INS Khukri, the first missile Corvette and the INS Magar, the latest amphibious assault ship.

The airforce will display Jaguars, MiG-27, radars and other armament. Another attraction of the parade will be a squad of 24 dogs which can detect mines and explosives.

By Thomas Abraham

Ambulance brakes fail, 2 dead: An ambulance struck and killed two people after its brakes failed, police said, and Mother Teresa rushed to the scene.

"She is very sad that two lives have been lost," said a nun who answered the phone at Mother Teresa's home.

Police said earlier that the 79-year-old nun was in the ambulance at the time of the accident but later denied it. The ambulance was carrying medical supplies for a hospital run by her missionaries of charity, said the nun, who declined to be identified.

"The brake of the ambulance failed and it hit several people," said police officer Samir Das.

Four people were seriously injured. Two of them later died in a hospital, Das said. The driver of the ambulance and a nun who was a passenger were unhurt, he said. (AP)

Mom rescues baby: A mother choked unconscious by a woman who tried abducting her baby quickly came to and rescued the infant by slamming her car into the would-be kidnapper's vehicle in a shopping mall parking lot, police said in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"The mother instinct raised up, and she did what she had to do to save her child," said a police officer at the scene of the crime. "I have nothing but praise for her."

The suspect is a 31-year-old Charlotte woman who had apparently been seeking a baby to bring home to her husband, police investigators said.

Karen Stevens was being held in the Mecklenburg County jail Saturday in lieu of \$101,000 bond. She was charged with kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, and assault on a child.

The suspect had tried to drive off with the 2-month-old daughter of a woman who offered Stevens a ride outside a busy Charlotte shopping mall Friday, authorities said. (UPI)

Married father ordained: A married father of four was ordained as a Catholic Priest Saturday in a rare Vatican-approved ceremony that defied the church's longstanding general ban against wedded clergymen.

The Rev. Trevor Nicholls, 47, a former Anglican priest, was accepted to the Catholic priesthood under a special Papal order that can only be used in the United States.

Pope John Paul II issued the special provision in 1980, at the behest of US bishops, sanctioning the ordination of converted Anglican, or Episcopalian, priests and Lutheran ministers.

In the last decade, about 50 converted Episcopalian priests have been ordained in similar ceremonies across the country, said Joseph Zwilling, a spokesman for the New York Archdiocese.

The ceremony sparked a demonstration by about 15 protesters who demanded the Catholic church lift its longstanding general ban against accepting married men and women into the priesthood. (UPI)

6 die in house fire: Fire claimed the lives of two teenagers, one of them a baby sitter, and four young children Saturday when they were trapped inside a home protected by burglar bars, officials said in Jacksonville, Florida.

The house had one door, which was locked when firefighters arrived, and all of the windows were covered by the iron bars, officials said.

One of the victims, an 11-year-old boy, was found in a utility room, which indicated he had tried to get out of the burning, concrete block house.

Wayne Doolittle, a spokesman for the Jacksonville fire department and a 26-year veteran, said the death toll was the worst in memory for a residential blaze. "This house was locked," said Doolittle.

An elderly neighbour and a volunteer firefighter were the first to arrive at the scene. The woman had a key, but Doolittle said she was shaking so badly that she could not open the door.

The fireman used a key to open the door, but was repelled by smoke, Doolittle said. (UPI)

Militant leaders visit homeland from their Pakistani bases

Punjab peace bid hopes raised

AMRITSAR, India, (Reuters): The new Indian government's Punjab peace initiative has kindled renewed hopes of an end to the long, debilitating Sikh separatist war in the rich northern state.

And there are the first faint, flickering signs that militant leaders, whose war stretching back nearly a decade has cost thousands of lives, may be prepared to respond.

A senior intelligence official said three top militant leaders had visited Punjab from their Pakistani bases in the past three weeks to check out the new situation.

One of them had three meetings with Simranjit Singh Mann, currently the most powerful voice in Sikh politics, he said.

He said Gurbachan Singh Manochahal, one of the founders of the now-split committee that started the insurgency, opened discussions on conditions for supporting Mann's efforts to start peace talks with the government.

"This is not a definitive indication of a willingness to do a deal, but the fact that Manochahal is talking in this way is positive," the official said.

Mann, elected to Parliament in November from a jail cell while awaiting trial on charges

of plotting the 1984 assassination of former prime minister Indira Gandhi, has said he should mediate talks.

Senior officials in Delhi seem ready to let Mann — freed by Indira's son Rajiv after his election defeat — see what he can do.

"We have to head for the negotiating table and fight now he has the most support," said a cabinet member who asked not to be identified.

"I don't know the shape of things to come, but no one can deny that he is the most powerful man in Punjab today."

Splits and enmities between the various militant factions as well as similar rifts and strains between Sikh politicians mean the road to peace is likely to be a long one.

Huge questions remain on whether the militants are willing to settle for less than the independent Khalistan (land of the pure) for which they have been fighting.

But two visits to Punjab by new Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh during his first six weeks in office have made talk of peace widespread.

"People are very hopeful. Everyone wants something to happen. People want peace," said former Punjab chief minister Surjit Singh

Barnala. "Singh has given the feeling to the people that he intends to resolve the problem."

Barnala said he believed that sentiment and Singh's huge surge of popularity in the farming state could force concessions from militant leaders.

Singh started his peace initiative within days of taking power, going to Amritsar's Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, to pray for peace and mingle with the people with little overt security around him.

He launched a debate on Punjab which he said should lead to consensus on how to resolve the insurgency while keeping the state within India.

Singh called an all-party meeting in Delhi on Punjab, then on January 11 held a multi-party rally in the Punjab city of Ludhiana and added to the list of concessions he has made to political demands from the state.

The cabinet minister said the government had hopes for success.

"It's going to be a very long road, but the ground is being prepared by generating confidence among the people that we are sincere about finding a political solution. Once that is established, it should be all right," he said.

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Show unveils the ultimate in electronic gadgets

LAS VEGAS, Jan 14, (AP): There was a video game controller the player doesn't even need to touch. There was a hand-held copier and telephone-facsimile unit that can send and receive transmissions from cellular phones. There was even a TV screen measuring 10 feet (3 metres) from corner to corner.

Industry officials predict more than \$10 billion in orders will result from the Winter Consumer Electronics Show, which closed last week after displaying what's hot in electronic gadgetry for the

1990s.

Thousands of products captured the imagination of the more than 70,000 manufacturers, dealers and journalists who visited the four-day show.

"The mood for 1990 is very upbeat," show spokeswoman Cynthia Upson said. "These retailers just came off the Christmas selling season. Many were here looking into what's new for a new decade. Retailers say they expect a nice volume for the spring selling season. When you bear that, you know you've

had a successful show."

Show officials say the winter electronics show and its summer counterpart, which will be held in Chicago, stimulate orders totalling more than half of the consumer electronics industry's sales.

Factory sales for the industry are expected to reach a record \$33.412 billion in 1990, up from \$32.166 billion in 1989.

The major players at the show were big ticket items such as home entertain-

ment advances — giant video and surround-sound audio — that turn a living room into a home theatre. Also displayed were digital sound systems that give a car or home the sound of a concert hall or cathedral.

Mitsubishi introduced a rear-projection TV with a 120-inch (3-metre) screen. The cost: \$20,000.

New home automation devices allow a person away from home turn on the dishwasher, lock doors, set alarms, programme the VCR or turn on the air-

conditioner, all by telephone.

But smaller electronic gadgets continued to capture the imagination of visitors to the show, which is considered a fantasy land for adults.

Broderbund software unveiled a video game controller that it says eliminates all physical contact between player and machine. Instead of a joystick or button, the player uses hand movement to produce a response. In the "Mike Tyson's punch-out" game, for example, throw a left jab in the air

and you throw a left jab at a video version of the champ.

Panasonic-Technics offered a car radio that owners can programme for their favourite type of music. The radio picks up the top station in the selected category as the driver moves from city to city.

Blaupunkt Borsch Telecom introduced an electronic car navigation system that allows drivers to follow a video map to their destination.



Wilder shown taking the oath. (Reuters wirephoto)

First US black governor inaugurated

RICHMOND, Virginia, Jan 14, (AP): L. Douglas Wilder was inaugurated yesterday as America's first elected black governor, which he called a triumph for the principles in the Declaration of Independence.

Wilder, a grandson of slaves, said he wanted young people to hear about freedom in the words used by former US President Thomas Jefferson, so he included them in his remarks as he became Virginia's 66th governor. Jefferson himself served as Virginia governor in revolutionary war times.

Wilder said he wanted young listeners "to know that oppression can be lifted, that discrimination can be eliminated, that poverty need not be hindering, that disability can be overcome."

He reminded them, though, that the offer of opportunity "carries with it the requirement of hard work, the rejection of drugs and other false highs, and a willingness to work with others whatever their colour or national origin."

Retired US Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr administered the oath of office to Wilder, formerly lieutenant governor, before 15,000 guests at the state capital.

Ironically, the same capital more than a century ago was the capital of the confederacy.

The 58-year-old Wilder, a self-proclaimed "mainstream" Democrat, won the closest gubernatorial election in Virginia history on Nov 7. A recount demanded by Republican opponent J. Marshall Coleman resulted in a Dec 21 certification of a 6,741-vote victory margin, or less than half of 1 per cent.

He is the first black elected governor in any state, but one black, P. B. S. Pinchback, served temporarily as Louisiana governor for 43 days in late 1872 and early 1873 after the governor was impeached and removed from office.

The inauguration was preceded by a prayer service at St Paul's Episcopal Church.

Former Democratic Presidential candidate Jesse Jackson and former tennis star Arthur Ashe, both prominent African Americans, attended the prayer service. Wilder hadn't let Jackson campaign on his behalf, but Wilder's press secretary, Laura Dillard, said Jackson was invited to the inauguration because "it's appropriate. He's a leading national figure in Democratic circles."

Gang slashes actress' neck

Needed 27 stitches

NEW YORK, Jan 14, (AP): Swedish-born actress Viveca Lindfors was slashed across her neck on a Manhattan street early yesterday by a marauding gang suspected in a similar random attack, minutes earlier, police said.

The 70-year-old actress, whose stage and screen career covers a half-century, needed 27 stitches after the 1:35 am attack on a Greenwich Village Street, said police spokesman Sgt Peter Berry.

Another victim required 40 stitches when he was slashed from his ear to his throat, Berry said.

Police had no motive and had made no arrests.

Despite her injuries, Ms Lindfors went ahead yesterday with a performance for senior citizens, said her granddaughter, Natasha Fried. The actress later said she would not allow the attack to drive her from the city.

"This is where we live, me and my children and grandchildren, and we're not going to be kicked out by those bastards," she told the Daily News.

But Ms Lindfors also showed some compassion for the person who slashed her.

"I'm coming off easily, compared to him," she told the New York Times. "My ear is cut, but his life is going to be hell if he doesn't face something within himself."

Her granddaughter said yesterday afternoon an audience would not have known if Ms Lindfors was in any pain.

"She was great," the grand-

daughter said. "It was a good outlet for her. It was a good way for her to release emotion."

The show, "An Actor Works: Poetry," took place in the theatre studio a few blocks from where the attack occurred, said Ms Lindfors' daughter, Lena Tabori.

"She's unbelievable. She got in at 5:30 this morning, got up at 10 o'clock and she goes on at three," said Ms Tabori from her mother's Manhattan apartment. "This is typical of Viveca. She's incredible."

According to police, Ms Lindfors and three other actresses were talking on a sidewalk after completing a Friday evening performance at the theatre studio. A group of five or six men ran past the four women, slashing Ms Lindfors and continuing on, police said.

Ms Lindfors said she and her friends were discussing Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Lithuania when she was attacked. "In the middle of this discussion, this kid, he grabbed my face, ... and the next second I found myself down on the pavement," she said.

Ms Lindfors was slashed on the neck below her left ear. When she arrived at St Vincent's Hospital for treatment, she met the gang's other victim — 36-year-old Dennis Beal of New York, who was attacked shortly before Ms Lindfors.

Beal was walking along when a group ran up on him from behind, Berry said. The last man in the gang cut Beal, the spokesman said.



Greenpeace to the rescue

A Greenpeace diver from the environmental pressure group's vessel, the Rainbow Warrior, releases a giant, Oceanic sunfish from a Taiwanese driftnet in the Tasman Sea, midway between Australia and New Zealand. Below the sunfish is an albacore tuna, the target species of the driftnet. (Reuters wirephoto)

New data casts doubt on star formation

Scientists fail to disprove big bang

ARLINGTON, Virginia, Jan 14, (AP): A satellite designed to detect patterns of cosmic creation has found nothing to explain how basic structures in the universe, such as galaxies and stars, came to exist, researchers said yesterday.

In a news conference announcing first results from the cosmic background explorer satellite launched last November, four scientists said instruments detected none of the patterns of microwave and infrared radiation that would help to explain how stars and galaxies started forming shortly after the big bang primordial explosion 15 billion years ago.

The scientists, presenting their findings on the final day of the 175th national meeting of the American Astronomical Society, said the satellite found nothing that would disprove the big bang, but the data did not unravel mysteries

of the processes since.

"I am completely mystified how the present structures (in the universe) came to exist without leaving some trace," said John Mather, an astronomer at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Centre. He said the findings adds to the puzzle, but he believes more data from the satellite may eventually produce a solution.

"We have not eliminated our existence yet. We are here," he said. This existence alone, he implied, proves that there was a process releasing energy after the big bang.

The \$150 million COBE satellite, launched Nov 15, carried into space for the first time instruments designed to detect microwave and infrared radiation created shortly after the big bang, the explosion that started formation of

the universe.

Current theories are that bits of matter at many points in the universe formed small centres of gravitational attraction that drew more and more bits of matter together until the centres became so dense that stars were born. Once a group of stars were formed, their mutual attraction, in turn, led to galaxies, and then to clusters of galaxies, and eventually to structures that form patterns reaching hundreds of millions of light years across the sky.

According to the theories, the tremendous heat from such processes would produce microwave and infrared radiation, some of which should still be detectable in the vast reaches of space.

In order for these models to be correct, however, scientists expected that COBE would

detect "lumps" or "seeds" — the radiation signatures of dense pockets of matter that came together very early in time.

Instead, NASA researchers said they so far have found that the infrared and microwave background is completely "smooth" from one year to 1 million years after the big bang, the period in which star formation is believed to have begun.

Ned Wright, an astronomer at the University of California, Los Angeles, said the finding "rules out any great cataclysmic events at any time after the big bang."

"This may mean that some new kind of physical phenomena may have to be recognised as the origin of these structures, or the theories need to be improved," Wright said.

Doing OK

Siamese separated

MELBOURNE, Jan 14, (AP): Siamese twin girls were reported in stable condition today after being separated in a 7 and 1-2 hour operation at Royal Children's Hospital.

Hospital spokesman Don Kinsey said the girls were progressing well after Thursday's operation.

Kinsey said a 25-member surgical team led by Dr Keith Stokes separated the girls, who were 11 days old on the day of the operation. The operation involved separating two livers and two digestive tracts.

Kinsey said the operation was the fourth successful separation of Siamese twins carried out at the hospital and the 33rd successful operation of its kind since 1890 when international records for the operation were first kept.

The name of the family was not revealed.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida: The US state of Florida, which boasts more vehicles than people, has earned the dubious title of the Car Capital of the World.

The state has 12.8 million residents — and 15.1 million vehicles, according to the latest statistics from Florida's department of highway safety and motor vehicles.

Florida also leads the nation in new car sales.

Some Floridians have one car for pleasure and another for work. Tourists want rental cars. Families buy junk cars for teenagers. Even those who might not be able to afford a car need something to get around in because of inadequate public transportation.

"The biggest thing these numbers say is what a lousy public transportation system we have in Florida," said John DeGrove, of the joint centre for urban studies.

J.D. Power and Associates, a California-based research firm, found that Floridians buy 87.34 new cars for every 1,000 people each year, nearly 50 per cent above the national average. (AP)

CHICAGO, Illinois: An enterprising poster maker who sold nearly 750,000 targets featuring the Ayatollah Khomeini a few years back now has Manuel Noriega in his sights.

Mike McCormack's latest creation: The smiling face of a uniformed Noriega with a superimposed bull's eye.

"I've been getting a lot of requests for this one," said McCormack, who also has brought out target posters of US Senator Ted Kennedy, former President Jimmy Carter and former Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne.

A lot of military people have been requesting the Noriega poster," he said. The former Panama dictator's government was toppled by a US invasion last month. (AP)

Pan Am bombing

Scottish police brief families

HUDSON, New York, Jan 14, (AP): More than a year after Pan Am flight 103 blew up over Lockerbie, police officials told the Scottish town came to the United States to brief relatives of the bombing's victims.

About 130 people showed up yesterday at the St Charles Hotel in this town to hear chief Constable George Esson of Lockerbie give details of his department's investigation.

"Better late than never," said Bert Ammerman, president of victims of Pan Am Flight 103.

The group Ammerman heads is made up of relatives of the 259 people killed when a bomb smuggled aboard flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie on Dec 21, 1988. Eleven more people were killed on the ground as debris from the exploded jet rained down on the Scottish village.

Esson said he and two other investigators travelled to the United States because Ammerman requested that they inform families individually in a way the US government had seemed unwilling to do.

Victims of Pan Am Flight 103 came together after the crash in part because the families were frustrated by the lack of information coming from their own government.

"We've not only lost loved ones, but the love of our country and the feeling that our country

would be there for us," said Bill Monetti of Chatham, N.J., whose nephew, Rick Monetti, was killed in the crash.

"We have a government that would like this to be an invisible episode," said Georgia Nucci of Hudson, who lost her son Chris Jones.

However, many family members who showed up said they were encouraged that agents from the FBI and a member of the presidential commission on security, aviation and terrorism showed up at the briefing.

Ammerman, whose brother Tom was killed in the bombing, said he would like to see US law enforcement agencies act more like their counterparts in Scotland.

"Today's meeting was a major step forward in having appropriate agencies extending themselves to the families," he said.

Informational packets were handed out to the families at a closed-door briefing yesterday morning. The contents of the packets were not revealed, but Esson said that catalogues were included listing items recovered at the crash site that are still unclaimed.

About 15 per cent of the personal effects of the victims remained in storage in Lockerbie, Esson said.

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National

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Anti-drug crusader under attack

Angels set up round-the-clock vigil

EAST PALO ALTO, California, Jan 14 (UPI): Two attackers tried to firebomb the bullet-riddled home of a 60-year-old woman whose stubborn neighbourhood anti-drug crusade has made her a target of drug pushers, the Guardian Angels had said.

The red-beretted civilian crime-fighting group, which has begun a 24-hour protective watch on Clara Roddy, said two beer bottles filled with gasoline and plugged with cloth wicks were hurled at her home Thursday night.

Both of the Molotov cocktails hit the house but failed to ignite.

Guardian Angel Justin van Zandt said he and other members of the anti-crime group were

unable to catch two people seen running away from the back of the house.

"Thank God for the Guardian Angels," said Roddy, a feisty retiree who has been punched, shot at and threatened by drug pushers. "It's crazy around here, but I feel much safer with them out there."

Roddy was not told about the firebombing attempt until Friday.

"I just want (people in) the neighbourhood to know they can be free by their own choice," Roddy said. "All they have to do is work together. When we see these drug deals, we should all band together and stop them."

Police announced they would make no fur-

ther comments about Roddy's situation unless there was a significant break in the attacks against her.

"Some of these incidents may be copycat type of things," Sgt. Ron Sibley, a police spokesman, said. "We may be dealing with juveniles. It (news reports) may be helping to keep them going."

The Guardian Angels set up a round-the-clock watch at Roddy's home on Thursday from a command post across the street. They said they would increase their patrols from 12 to as many as 20 members.

The besieged Roddy lives in one of the most notorious streets of violence-torn and drug-

infested East Palo Alto, a low-income community of 18,000 south of San Francisco.

The beleaguered 30-man police force has stepped up its patrols in the neighbourhood and 20 agents of the FBI went door-to-door this week seeking leads on a New Year's Day shooting attack on Roddy's home.

Her home was hit at least 35 times by semi-automatic gunfire as she was watching television and a bullet grazed her stomach.

Roddy said drug dealers have also sent her sprawling on the sidewalk with a punch in the face, flattened her car tyres, broken her windows and threatened to blow up her house and kill her 37-year-old son, Darnell.

Noriega helped US for own ends

WASHINGTON, Jan 14 (AP): On a June day in 1985, Marine Lt. Col. Oliver L. North, then managing director of the US effort to aid the Nicaraguan Contra rebels, boarded a yacht anchored off the Pacific Coast of Panama for a secret meeting with the country's military strongman, Manuel Antonio Noriega.

North needed Noriega's permission to use Panamanian military bases and personnel to train Contra soldiers in their fight against Nicaragua's government. Noriega enthusiastically joined in the effort to help the Contras, apparently betting that his co-operation would encourage US officials to turn a blind eye to evidence that he was involved in narcotics trafficking, money laundering and gun running.

The ousted Panamanian leader now claims that the US began its campaign to remove him only after he refused to allow Panama to be used as a launching pad for Contra attacks against Nicaragua.

North, who at that time was a White House aide, held at least two further meetings with Noriega, a strand in a web of high level US government contacts with the Panamanian ruler that included sessions with then-vice president George Bush, late CIA director William Casey and vice adm. John Poindexter, then-national security adviser under president Ronald Reagan.

Analysing these meetings, investigators for a Senate foreign affairs subcommittee on narcotics concluded last year that Noriega was following a divide-and-conquer strategy in his relations with the United States.

Noriega eventually offered to provide military training and weapons for the Contras and also to infiltrate Panamanian troops inside Nicaragua to sabotage key facilities and assassinate Sandinista leaders.

"Noriega recognised that so long as he helped the United States with its highest diplomatic priorities ... the United States would have to overlook activities of his that affected lesser US priorities," the panel said.

"In the mid-1980s, this meant that our government did nothing regarding Noriega's drug business and substantial criminal involvement because the first priority was the Contra war," said the panel, controlled by opposition majority Democrats.

Noriega, now awaiting trial in Miami on narcotics charges after his ouster from power in a US invasion last month, long has said he holds information highly embarrassing to key US officials, information stemming in part from his face-to-face conversations with them.

Noriega's lawyers say they will ask the government to turn over many sensitive documents bearing on Noriega's relationship with US officials, documents which he contends will show the United States was aware of his narcotics activities for many years and chose to ignore them.

The Senate subcommittee, headed by Sen. John Kerry sought many of the same documents but never succeeded in obtaining them from government agencies. Earlier, the congressional Iran-Contra committee also sought to trace Noriega's relationships, especially with North and the Contras.

Noriega prosecution team formed

MIAMI, Jan 14 (Reuters): A US attorney reported to have planned to spearhead the prosecution of deposed Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega yesterday assigned the job to a team of prosecutors.

Dexter Lehtinen, the top federal prosecutor in Miami, said he would have overall responsibility but would hand over day-to-day supervision to three career prosecutors, including one from the attorney general's office in Washington.

The Miami Herald had reported that Lehtinen was planning to act as lead prosecutor in what is regarded as the most important drug

trafficking case in US history. But Justice Department officials had declined to confirm that he would remain in charge and critics said he lacked the qualifications and temperament for the job.

Lehtinen, named US attorney in June 1988, has not fought in a criminal case in at least a decade. A Vietnam veteran with a fiery temper, Lehtinen has been known to shout at subordinates and throw pens and wadded paper, according to a prosecutor who works in his office.

Lehtinen, in charge of one of the busiest US attorney's offices in the country, said it was his

decision alone not to personally try the case and that no one had forced him out.

"I could not devote the time to the Noriega case that would be needed for its proper presentation to the court," Lehtinen told reporters. But he said Attorney General Richard Thornburgh had agreed that "the ultimate responsibility is mine."

The one-time "maximum leader" of Panama surrendered to US troops following the US invasion of Panama. Noriega is charged with shielding Colombian drug barons and helping them to ship cocaine to the United States.



Hilda (L) and Lupe proudly display their new anti-Noriega T-shirts depicting Bush grabbing Noriega by the neck. The shirt sells for \$5 each. (Reuters wirephoto)

Panamanians rejoice

25 days after US invasion

PANAMA CITY, Jan 14 (AP): The stores are empty, shuttered, lined with empty racks or naked mannequins stacked against walls. In the streets, American soldiers with camouflage-painted faces huddle under trees, peer behind sandbags and crouch next to coils of concertina wire, gripping their guns.

"Hola," they venture in Spanish to passing women.

Twenty-five days after 26,000 US troops toppled Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, much of Panama City is riddled with bullets and littered with debris as the capital wobbles toward normalcy.

Seismologists say the earth shook 417 times before explosions during the first hours of the Dec 20 US invasion. The US Department of Defence says 220 civilians and more than 300 Panamanian and US soldiers died in the fighting.

Most of the explosions appear to have rattled the poor neighbourhood of El Chorrillo, where Noriega's military headquarters crumbled under persistent shelling as US fighters flew overhead.

Nearby, carcasses of cars — some overturned, some on their sides, rust in the 90 degree (32 Celsius) sun.

The small apartments of El Chorrillo, which means the little stream, are gutted from the fires, bullets and mortars that ravaged the city while Noriega's loyalists fought US forces.

The battles drove thousands from their homes to havens in churches and stadiums.

But last week there was dancing and drinking in

the narrow sidewalks and Panamanians waved from their balconies to the soldiers when the walls of the general's headquarters came tumbling down.

Men with Atlas beers in their hands staggered through the littered room that was Noriega's office looking for souvenirs and pornography in the layers of debris the US military left behind as unimportant.

"Viva (US President George) Bush," one man shouted.

Outside, plumes of smoke float into the grey sky in thick puffs, filling the air with the acrid smell of leftover tear-gas.

Broken glass, empty cartons and shreds of paper are piled high: Remnants of the rampant looting that broke out and went unstoppered for four days, emptying businesses of an estimated \$1 billion of goods and leaving 30,000 people jobless.

A little boy quietly throws a pile of his family's garbage onto one of the heaps.

Television commercials urge viewers to "return the stolen goods." But no one seems to.

On a sunny afternoon, newly installed Panamanian President Guillermo Endara wore a blue suit, puffed his lips and grabbed a sledghammer.

"Over the ashes of the military, we will build a new Panama," said the civilian leader Thursday after smashing a wall of the imposing building where Noriega led his 15,000 troops.

Scribbled in black ink on white walls, the message "Yanqui (Yankee) go home," is dated January 1989, from a time when Noriega was on top.

Next to it, a 1990 thought: "Free at last."

Salvadoran leftist politician shot dead

Right-wing paramilitary groups blamed

GUATEMALA CITY, Jan 14 (AP): A prominent leftist Salvadoran politician who fled his nation because of threats on his life was found shot to death near the Guatemala-El Salvador border after he was reported kidnapped, officials said yesterday.

A Guatemalan politician and lawyer who was with the Salvadoran when he reportedly was abducted also was found dead, officials said.

No one claimed responsibility for the slayings. Salvadoran and Guatemalan politicians blamed right-wing paramilitary groups that operate in both countries, but El Salvador's leftist guerrillas blamed Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani's rightist Republican Nationalist Alliance Party and its founder, Roberto D'Aubuisson.

The guerrillas, who last week said they were willing to renew peace talks with the Cristiani

government, said they now are having second thoughts.

Guatemalan police confirmed the deaths but would not comment further. The body of Hector Oquell Colindres, 45, deputy secretary-general of the National Revolutionary Movement in El Salvador, was discovered Friday night in Jalpatagua, a city 60 miles (100 kilometres) east of Guatemala City, officials said.

Oquell had been shot in the head, a spokesman for the leftist National Revolutionary Movement said in El Salvador. The other victim was identified as Cilda Flores, a Guatemalan who was driving Oquell to the airport in Guatemala City when they disappeared early Friday.

Party officials said both were kidnapped by armed men.

"We are not interested in helping the fascist

regime wash its face to seek US military aid and further its plan of annihilating all types of opposition," said the Salvadoran rebels, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, in a statement made public in Mexico City.

The statement referred to Cristiani's scheduled visit to Washington this week. El Salvador depends heavily on US economic and military assistance.

The FMLN said it doubted justice would be done in Oquell's slaying or the killing of six Jesuit priests Nov 16, and this "leads us to review our offer for a dialogue."

With his US visit about to start, Cristiani yesterday identified four officers and five enlisted men as the prime suspects in the Jesuit killings.

The FMLN had proposed a meeting within 30 days to renew cease-fire talks and the government accepted the offer.

Moscow, Havana alliance to go on

WASHINGTON, Jan 14 (AP): Cuba continues to be an important military and intelligence asset for the Soviet Union and the long-standing Moscow-Havana alliance is expected to survive deepening ideological differences, according to analysts.

There is little question that the relationship is far less relaxed than it was before Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev assumed power but the consensus among experts is that Cuba is too valuable for the Soviets to cast aside.

Still, as US officials see it, there is evidence of a decline in Soviet assistance to Cuba, a trend that may continue but not to the point where the survival of the regime is threatened. One example of the strength of the relationship was the recent delivery of Soviet MIG-29 jet fighters to Cuba, the officials say.

Says Cornell University professor Rhoda Rabkin, "there is little sign that the Gorbachev era leadership considers Cuba an expendable Soviet commitment."

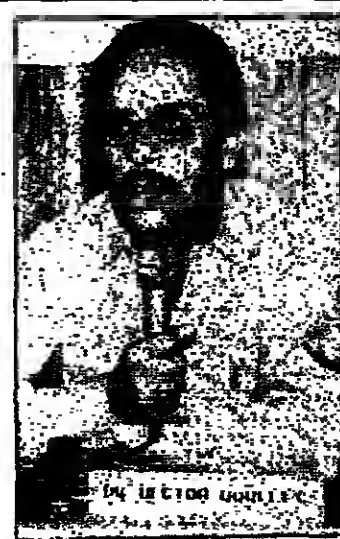
Among other assets, she notes the Soviets have an extensive electronic intelligence gathering facility in Cuba and installations that enable Soviet long-range reconnaissance aircraft to monitor US east coast military activities. Thanks to Cuba, the Soviets also are able to maintain a strategic naval presence in the Caribbean.

Professor Jaime Sochicki of the University of Miami's Institute of Inter-American Studies points out that these Soviet activities have forced the United States to install expensive surveillance and tracking facilities to keep an eye on the Soviets.

Gillian Gunn, an associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington research group, says Soviet leaders have been cool to US admonitions that they distance themselves from Castro.

Gorbachev has left the impression he opposes Castro's effort to promote subversion in the hemisphere.

But the Soviets have told US officials privately they have no way of knowing how Castro would react if they pushed him too hard, according to Ms. Gunn. "If they tinker with his aid, he could mess around with their military access," she says, summing up Soviet concerns.



File photo of Hector Oquell Colindres. (Reuters wirephoto)



Sky-jam

Hundreds of US paratroopers drop from the sky as almost 2,000 members of the 82nd Airborne Division return to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, after taking part in the Panama invasion. (Reuters wirephoto)

Four officers held in killings

Salvador massacre

SAN SALVADOR, Jan 14 (UPI): President Alfredo Cristiani announced yesterday that the director of the armed forces military academy and eight other soldiers, including three officers, have been implicated in the brutal slaying of six Jesuit priests.

Cristiani, in a nationally televised address, said the academy director, Col Guillermo Alfredo Benavides, had been implicated in the Nov 16 slayings along with two lieutenants and a sub-lieutenant.

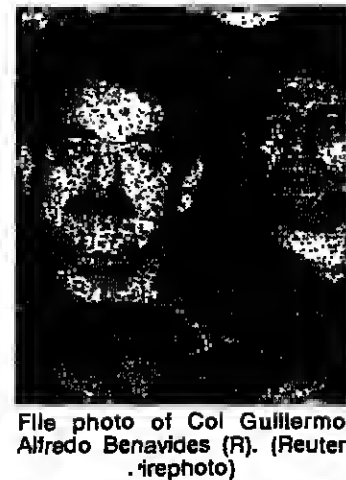
The president also named five other lower-ranking soldiers suspected of being involved in the attack, in which six Jesuit priests were dragged from their home at the University of Central America, beaten and shot to death. Their housekeeper and her 15-year-old daughter also were slain.

The announcement came as the New York Times reported in today's editions that a US officer may have had advance knowledge of plans to kill the priests. The newspaper said the US officer was approached by a Salvadoran colonel and told of Salvadoran military involvement in the killings.

The Times, citing officials monitoring the case, said it was not clear whether the Salvadoran colonel approached the officer afterward to alert him to military involvement in the killings or contacted him in advance to warn him of plans to kill the Jesuits.

The newspaper said the US officer has been recalled to the United States and the Salvadoran colonel, whose name was not given, has been detained. The Times said it was unclear whether the colonel knew in advance of the plan to kill the Jesuits.

Cristiani named the suspects



File photo of Col Guillermo Alfredo Benavides (R). (Reuters wirephoto)

in a nationally televised address. The armed forces high command, in a sign of support, sat at his side during the address. The president, a member of the Arena party, had been under intense international pressure to find the priests' killers and bring them to justice.

"Since the day of the crime, our government initiated the corresponding investigation with the full backing of the armed forces and without waiting for national or international reaction, but rather as a moral obligation," Cristiani said in his speech, which also was broadcast on the radio.

A military spokesman said Benavides and one of the lieutenants were from the military academy, while the remaining soldiers were members of the elite US-trained Atlacatl Battalion.

Benavides is a graduate of the academy's class of 1966, which now controls most of the top positions in the military.

If the soldiers are found guilty, it would be the first time officers of the Salvadoran military have been convicted of such serious offences.

America puts off cocaine blockade

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia, Jan 14 (UPI): The United States and three cocaine-producing nations held final preliminary talks yesterday before a February drug summit and the United States did not push a proposal to use the military to intercept cocaine-laden ships and planes.

The United States agreed to support "alternative development" programmes to replace economic losses should cocaine production be reduced, while Peru and Bolivia were to incorporate their armed forces in the battle against cocaine traffickers, officials said.

"We are very content with everything that has been done up to now and we consider this meeting a success," said Michael Sknl, deputy assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs.

The four days of meetings — two days between the South American nations and two more including the United States — were held to set an agenda and produce working documents for the Feb 15 summit in Cartagena, Colombia.

In its proposed agenda, the United States pressed for air and sea interception in international waters of ships and planes believed to be carrying cocaine to US territory.

But sources in the delegations said the proposal was dropped after the diplomatic flap caused last week by the Bush administration plan.

The proposal was extremely sensitive in Latin American coming just after the US invasion of Panama, which was viewed in the region as another example in a long history of US interference.

A Colombian delegate, who asked not to be named, said the US delegation did not push the interception plan, adding the topic had been "definitively" dropped.

Firms fined for bribing FDA officials

BALTIMORE, Jan 14 (UPI): A US judge Friday fined two pharmaceutical firms a total of \$400,000 after each pleaded guilty to one count of bribing US Food and Drug Administration officials.

US District Judge John Hargrave gave a \$150,000 fine to Par Pharmaceutical Inc. of Spring Valley, New York. He also fined a Par subsidiary, Quad Pharmaceuticals Inc., of Indianapolis, Indiana, \$250,000.

Testimony showed the two firms paid thousands of dollars in illegal gratuities to former FDA branch chief Charles Chang and review chemists Walter Kleich and David Brancato in Rockville, Maryland.

Witnesses said the companies paid the bribes to speed the FDA review and approval of generic drug applications. With a quick review, the companies stood better chances of gaining an edge in the highly competitive generic drug market, witnesses said.

Par Vice President Ashok Patel and Quad President Dilly Shah have both been convicted of paying the bribes, and have each been fined and sentenced to complete a year of community service.

The fines issued Friday capped a battery of cases in which three representatives of generic drug makers and three government chemists were convicted.

Death for US mole in Moscow

MOSCOW, Jan 14, (Reuters): A senior Soviet diplomat, who for almost 30 years passed defence secrets to US intelligence under the nose of the KGB, has been sentenced to death in Moscow.

It was unclear whether the sentence had been carried out.

The Communist Party daily Pravda outlined today the remarkable career of "Donald", whose exploits included secret radio transmissions to the US embassy from a passing Moscow trolleybus and dead drops along narrow streets of the old city centre.

The newspaper said Donald, who was recruited while working at the Soviet UN mission in New York and also held diplomatic posts in Burma and India, passed secret plans for defence against biological and chemical weapons to his US handlers.

Other items included diplomatic codes, nuclear weapons doctrine and civil defence preparations.

Pravda suggested Donald did considerable damage to the Soviet defence and security organs.

"Having access to many state secrets, Donald was trading in everything the US intelligence services were interested in."

"With an excellent education and as a teacher in one of the academies, he was an expert in many questions," it said, without giving any more details.

Communications featured innocuous messages placed in the advertising columns of the New York Times — "Moody, Donald F. please write as you promised. Uncle Charles and Sister Clara are OK." And home-made magnetic containers to conceal documents.

Pravda said another paid announcement in the New York Times welcomed his posting to Rangoon: "I was extremely glad to learn that you were lucky. I will visit you soon. Everything is OK."

That message was followed by a visit to the Burmese capital by an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) who passed Donald to a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) contact. In India, an agent named as John Dillon gave Donald a special high-speed transmitter and other equipment.

He was also given a special code phrase — "607 Madison Avenue" — in case he had to contact US agents in an emergency, Pravda said.

According to the gripping account, Donald more than once attracted the attention of KGB counter-intelligence agents but managed to ally their suspicious with a cool head and meticulous precautions.

Donald's love of danger and driving ambition fuelled an astonishing career that ran from 1961 until his recent arrest and trial.

No fear

"I was accustomed to balancing on a knife edge and did not imagine any other life for myself," he was reported to have told his KGB captors. He displayed no fear when arrested.

"I felt in my own analysis of my actions erasing my concerns," he told investigators. Pravda said he had "skillfully ruined the mosaic" of evidence being built against him over the years before "fatigue, accumulating for years" tripped him up. The end came when the KGB managed to read his coded radio transmissions.

Pravda said Donald's motives were not entirely clear but it suggested ideological disillusionment and personality — not money — sparked his betrayal.



Soldiers kill 3 in Belfast

Northern Ireland again drew Britain into controversy after undercover soldiers shot dead three youths apparently robbing a betting shop in a nationalist ghetto of Belfast.

Security sources said the soldiers, who wore civilian clothes, were not on a stakeout but had stumbled on the robbery just off the Falls Road, the main artery running through the nationalist ghetto of west Belfast.

A police spokesman said the youths carried imitation guns but the troops had no way of knowing they were not real.

Gerry Adams, president of the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing,

Sinn Féin, called the shootings "the cold-blooded and savage murder of three young men" and urged the human rights group Amnesty International to investigate.

He said they were not members of the IRA, which is battling to unite the British-ruled province with the Irish Republic, and likened the killings to those of three unnamed IRA guerrillas shot dead by British commandos while on a bombing mission in Gibraltar in 1988.

Picture shows police examining the dead bodies. (Reuters wirephoto)

No Soviet-China rift

Li Peng may visit Moscow

LONDON, Jan 14, (Reuters): Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, denying any ideological split between Moscow and Beijing, said yesterday he expected high-level meetings in the near future, including a visit to the Soviet Union by Premier Li Peng.

In an interview broadcast on Moscow Radio, monitored in London by the British Broadcasting Corporation, Rogachev dismissed ideas of a rift between the communist powers.

"This (split) is something that certain people would like to see in countries where they feel that the normalisation of Soviet-Chinese relations poses a threat to third countries," said Rogachev, who recently visited Beijing.

Rogachev said Li was expected to visit the Soviet Union as part of a series of meetings.

The report gave no further details of the meetings.

Meanwhile in Beijing police arrested a Chinese man accused of spying for Taiwan and disseminating material for the banned Chinese Alliance for Democracy, the official media reported yesterday.

The Xinhuas News Agency said Liang Chaotian, an operative for the Taiwan Kuomintang (nationalists) since 1981, was captured by police in Yunnan province, southwest China, last November.

The alliance was formed in New York in 1981 by Chinese exiles seeking democratic reform in their homeland. It is banned in China as a "reactionary" organisation.

The report did not say where the alleged outside branch was located. But the evening news showed Liang wearing a Burmese-style wrap-around skirt when he was being questioned by police, and Xinhuas said Liang has infiltrated people into Yunnan, which shares a border with Burma, for sabotage activities.

The television report also showed documents carrying the name of the Chinese Alliance for Democracy said to have been confiscated from Liang.

A liberal official Yuan Geng, who turned a barren land into an industrial town at the tip of southern China is expected to be purged for his energetic reform policy, an independent newspaper reported yesterday in Hong Kong.

The Chinese language daily Ming Pao reported that Yuan, 71, director of the commerce



Learning to fight

People's Liberation Army soldiers practice Kung Fu at the history museum in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Despite the lifting of martial law in the capital, hundreds of troops are still deployed around the city to respond to protests. (Reuters wirephoto)

Li image still mired

ML lifting fails to help

BEIJING, Jan 14, (Reuters): Premier Li Peng's announcement of the end of martial law in Beijing last week has failed to boost the hardline leader's reputation, some residents of the Chinese capital said today.

People interviewed in the city said the withdrawal of martial law troops on Thursday had not brought them more freedom because squads of armed police have been mobilised to take their place.

Li appeared on national television last Wednesday to personally revoke the martial law he decreed on May 20 last year and said the army had won a great victory in smashing political unrest last June.

He looked a figure of moderation as he appeared in a Western-style suit, addressing the nation in measured tones against a background of books.

But many Beijing residents recalled the finger-stabbing, desk-slapping performance he gave while proclaiming martial law and found the transformation hard to swallow.

"He is trying to look calmer and milder now," said one office worker. "But I don't think he has changed his real character."

Li is strongly supported by Communist Party elders such as Chen Yun who emerged as head of a hardline party faction after June. The faction backs him as a man able to enforce central economic planning and strict discipline.

Some people said they welcomed the repeal of martial law because it may bring tourists, foreign investors and loans back to China and speed the lifting of other punitive sanctions imposed by the West after the army crackdown.

But such optimism seems to have done little to boost the personal standing of Li, blamed by many for ordering troops and tanks to crush anti-government demonstrations in Beijing last June 4, causing heavy loss of life.

bureau in Shoukou, a district of the Shenzhen special economic zone, would be sacked and his reform policy criticised.

A strong earthquake cracked buildings in northwest China's Qinghai province today, but there were no reports of casualties, the official Xinhuas News

Agency said.

It said the quake measuring 6.7 on the Richter Scale hit Mangnai, a small outpost 1,300 miles (2,000 kilometres) west of the capital Beijing. People at a nearby oilfield felt the tremor and found cracks in their buildings.

This was 10 days after he became first secretary at neutral Sweden's legation in Budapest on a US-backed mission to save Jews from deportation to

Khmer call to capture town

BANGKOK, Jan 14, (Reuters): The Khmer Rouge called on its guerrillas to capture Cambodia's second city of Battambang at the weekend as military and political pressure grew on Phnom Penh to compromise in the search for peace.

Khmer Rouge radio catalogued destruction in Battambang during a four-hour hit-and-run attack on the western city on Jan 5 and exhorted its men to fight until "Battambang town — the big strategic town — is totally liberated."

The appeal, dated Jan 12 and broadcast yesterday, followed a series of claimed victories by the Chinese-backed guerrilla movement, one of a coalition of three factions fighting to overthrow the Vietnamese-installed government of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Diplomatic efforts to halt the fighting have gained pace. A meeting of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council starts in Paris tomorrow and final plans are being made for a regional meeting in Jakarta next month.

Diplomats said two elements spurred the latest peace initiatives after the failure of earlier attempts to end the 11-year conflict between the Phnom Penh government and the guerrilla coalition.

Hun Sen has been clearly rattled by the gains which have been made by the extremist Khmer Rouge and, more surprisingly, the non-communist western-backed Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) since the declared withdrawal of Vietnamese troops in September.

He has issued an urgent appeal for more troops to be drafted. He was forced to reintroduce a curfew in Phnom Penh in November. And, according to the Khmer Rouge, he imposed an overnight curfew and other restrictions on movement in three north-western provinces bordering Thailand most affected by the fighting.

Vietnam has shown concern over the ability of the army it helped raise and train after its 1978 invasion but which it left to its own devices nearly four months ago.

General Tran Cong Man, editor of the Hanoi army newspaper Quan Doi Nam Dhan, said in an interview in Hanoi last week that although it had always been clear the guerrillas would make some gains there was concern over the performance of the army.

"Now the Phnom Penh army is big, but more important is how it is organised," he said.

Vietnam's Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach said the premier of the Cambodia's pro-Vietnamese Hun Sen government held talks on the Cambodian war as the guerrillas intensified attacks.

The report was dated yesterday and seen in Bangkok today.

Four suspected terrorists jailed

IRA plan to get missile

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida, Jan 14, (UPI): Four suspected members of the Irish Republican Army were held yesterday on charges they paid federal undercover agents \$50,000 for a hand-held missile they hoped to use in terrorist acts, officials said.

The men, three Irish nationals and a Canadian, were in the Palm Beach County Jail awaiting a hearing Tuesday before a US magistrate.

The four were charged with conspiracy, possession of a destructive device and violations of the arms export control act and neutrality law, the FBI said. Each faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison and a \$750,000 fine.

The men were arrested Friday at a warehouse where they were shown a Stinger missile they thought was for sale, federal officials said.

The missile actually was on loan from the US military and the arms dealers were agents of the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Customs Service.

"I was trapped by certain people here," said a handcuffed Joseph M. McColgan as he was led from the federal courthouse to jail. "They were going to sell equipment for the Irish Republican (Army) struggle."

Federal officials identified them as McColgan, 39, Kevin J. McKinley, 33, Seamus Moley, 30, and Sean J. McCann, a Canadian.

"All are alleged members of the provisional IRA," said William Gavin, special agent in charge of the FBI in south Florida.

The outlawed IRA has battled British troops in Northern Ireland for more than 20 years to win control of the mostly Protestant territory and unite it with the mostly Catholic Irish Republic.

The missile, other weapons and explosives were to be used in terrorist activities outside the United States, officials said.

Federal officials were still trying to determine if any local people helped the men in the purchase attempt.

The investigation began six weeks ago when federal officials received information the men wanted to buy weapons. Undercover agents posing as arms dealers began meeting with the men to negotiate a deal.

The men were able to detail specifics about past terrorist activities, convincing federal officials they were involved in terrorism and were serious about buying the missile.

"Put it this way, they knew what they were doing," said Robert Creighton, special agent with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. "We had to take this very seriously. One would have to believe... they planned a terrorist act and obviously against an aircraft," he said.

Officials said the four men worked in the Palm Beach area but did not provide other details about their backgrounds.

The Stinger, a shoulder-fired, surface-to-air missile designed to destroy aircraft, is used by armed forces in the United States and other countries. The weapon, developed in the 1970s, was used by Afghan rebels to down Soviet aircraft.

A person holding a Stinger could blow a Boeing 747 jetliner from the sky, Gavin said.

Federal agents said the men had described the methods they used in the past to smuggle arms from the United States. Exactly how they planned to use the Stinger was unknown.

Malaysia official told to quit

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 14, (Kuna): The Malaysian bar council has called for the resignation or removal of attorney-general Abu Talib.

In a four-page statement following a full council meeting later today, bar council chairman S. Theivanthiran alleged that Abu Talib had abused the power entrusted to him by making decisions "arbitrarily and according to his whims and fancies."

"Unlike all other public servants, the attorney-general does not seem to have to answer or account to anyone for his actions."

The statement, which also criticised the police and the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Megat Junid Ayoh, was issued to the press after a three-and-a-half-hour meeting of the 33 council members here.

It comes in the wake of the seemingly contradictory statements made by Abu Talib to the press in connection with alleged pornographic video tapes stolen from Deputy Speaker of Parliament D.P. Vijandran.

Theivanthiran said the public had been misled by the attorney-general, the police, the deputy minister of home affairs, and others who would have been in the know, to believe that investigations were still being conducted when in fact they had closed the case.

Terrorists on hunger strike

Spanish dilemma

MADRID, Jan 14, (AP): Six convicted terrorists seriously weakened by a 45-day hunger strike are posing an ethical and political dilemma for the government.

The Justice Ministry said yesterday that six members of the extreme-left terrorist group Grapo remained in stable but very serious condition due to their hunger strike, a protest against their separation in various prisons.

Of the 52 prisoners who began the strike Nov 30, 11 remained in prison hospitals yesterday and 21 were in civil hospitals, the ministry said. Those hospitalised include the six in serious condition.

Eight prisoners have quit the strike, the ministry said, while another was released today after completing his sentence. The rest continue the strike in prison.

Last Tuesday, Judge Ignacio Sanchez Illeras of the northern city of Valladolid issued an order prohibiting prison officials from feeding a hospitalised Grapo hunger striker unless he lost consciousness.

Three other judges in other parts of the country have issued similar orders.

"The law stipulates the obligation (of the administration) to provide (to prisoners) health care and food, but in no way authorises that they be imposed against the will of the prisoner," Sanchez Illeras wrote in his order.

Grapo, whose Spanish initials stand for the 1st of October Revolutionary Anti-Fascist group, has claimed responsibility for more than 30 killings of police and army officers since 1975.

A year ago, the government of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez began dispersing convicted terrorists among Spain's 80 prisons to reduce the group's peer pressure on jailed members.

The policy was intended to encourage members to renounce violence, quit Grapo, and, in some cases, accept government pardons.

The private federation of Public Health Defence Associations, a group that defends hospital patients' rights, has backed the judges' decision against force-feeding hunger strikers.

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Important Announcement

1. Re-enrollment for returning students for the 1990-91 academic year will take place between January 15 and February 15, 1990.

2. Siblings of returning students may be enrolled for the 1990-91 academic year with priority over other new students between January 15 and February 15, 1990.

3. New student applications for the 1990-91 year are now being accepted, but decisions for acceptance will be taken after February 15, 1990.

The school will be unable to guarantee places for its current students, and priority status for the siblings of current students who enroll after February 15, 1990.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

BEING entirely honest with oneself is a good exercise
— Sigmund Freud, Austrian psychoanalyst (1856-1939).

OPINION

Openness need not be feared

OPINIONS expressed openly without any burles or either accepted or rejected by the people if they are illogical.

People today, are able to distinguish and nothing should make us apprehensive from freedom of expression as long as there are laws to protect the dignity of people — like advanced countries.

The absence of the democratic process, particularly freedom of expression, coupled with the absence of a better programme by the authority, certainly puts people into a dilemma.

What had already transpired was perhaps bad, but the alternative is not certainly better. People want to express their views and do not want to see them suppressed. For supporters of obscenity, there are laws through which they can be punished.

It is thus a grave mistake to continue describing everything as against the public interest. Ironically, the one who decides is a small employee who received instructions and translated them wrongly.

All people want are good health and a secure country — but who will fit the description of the right doctor and the right protector?

The civilised formula and shape in any state cannot be complete if the political leadership does not allow the various opinions to be expressed.

The other option cannot be there and will not see the light under the presence of restrictions of any kind. Restrictions may begin small and with a preventive philosophy by the political leadership, but, those who execute it use it as a means for suppressing the "other opinion."

Egypt for example felt after the departure of Nasser that it is difficult to keep the people silent and there was no way to assign a small employee with the job of evaluating the people's concepts.

Thus, came about the democratisation process in Egypt and the opposition was allowed to publish their own views. In the initial stages, the opposition press was over-reacting, but, later became well balanced in accordance with public demands and their awareness.

The role of the political authority was a wise one in listening to all sides, while at the same time keeping control over security and treating all with justice.

Launching a strong promotional campaign on a type of soap for example, will lead many to purchase the product. But, if it is later proved that the product is defective, purchase will stop.

This is the way of executing the democratic "game." People alone, through the experiment can distinguish and no one should have the right to make the distinction on their behalf.

Jordan, the small Arab country, has restored the democratic system and allowed expression of opinion in order to listen to everything as long as these opinions remain within the framework of public interest and as long as the people are capable of acknowledging public interests.

It is laws which protect rights and dignity of the public and not the authority servant who turns black into white and vice versa.

The Egyptian interior minister Zaki Badr was dismissed after he said too much and much was said about him. The Egyptian security was not disturbed, nor the Egyptian geographic location was altered. This should be a good lesson for regimes of the world.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1535 — King Henry VIII assumes title of "Supreme head of the church" in England.
- 1582 — Peace of Jam-Zapolski between Russia and Poland is signed, with Pope Gregory XIII mediating, by which Russia loses access to the Baltic.
- 1649 — French court leaves Paris at outbreak of Fronde rebellion.
- 1877 — Austria agrees to remain neutral in event of Russo-Turkish war.
- 1910 — French Congo is re-organised as French equatorial Africa.
- 1919 — Ignace Jan Paderewski becomes first premier of newly created republic of Poland.
- 1922 — Irish Free State is established under Michael Collins.
- 1932 — France completes pacification of French Morocco.
- 1936 — Japan walks out of London naval conference.
- 1943 — Japanese forces are driven from Guadalcanal Island in Pacific in World War II.
- 1963 — The Congo's President Moise Tshombe accepts United Nations plan for secession of Katanga.
- 1966 — Death count surpasses 400 as flood refugees begin returning to hillside homes in Brazil's capital of Rio de Janeiro.
- 1969 — Three Soviet cosmonauts are launched in spacecraft to link up with capsule already in orbit.
- 1970 — In Nigeria, dissident leaders of Biafra pledge to support government after surrendering.
- 1973 — Pope Paul VI tells Israel's Prime Minister Golda Meir at Vatican he supports an international Jerusalem.
- 1986 — Communist party chief Mikhail Gorbachev announces that Soviet Union is proposing plan for "ridding the earth of nuclear weapons within 15 years."
- 1988 — Soviet Union offers proposal which it calls prerequisite to agreement for cutting intercontinental nuclear forces by 50 per cent.
- 1989 — Riot police in Prague, Czechoslovakia, use water cannon and dogs to disperse at least 2,000 people who defy a ban on an independent rally.



Syrian Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam (left) is being welcomed by Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki upon his arrival at Cairo airport on Dec 23. Khaddam is the first senior Syrian official to visit Egypt in 12 years after ties between the two countries were cut in 1979 because of Egypt's peace treaty with Israel. (Reuters wirephoto)

Egypt-Syrian relations resume

A step closer to Arab unity

DAMASCUS, Syria, (AP): The resumption of relations by Syria and Egypt takes the Arabs a step closer to the unity that has eluded them for decades and reflects the sea-change in their leaders' perceptions that has taken place in recent years.

The rapprochement that ended a 12-year rift between two giants of the Arab world comes amid other signs of growing cohesion among the Muslim states.

It also underlines the more pragmatic approach Arab leaders are now taking, turning away from the mirage of instant unification that so seduced them for many years.

Their view of the world and their place in it has shifted over the years, from the emotional concept of "the Arab nation" to the harsh realities of coexistence with other power blocs and that Israel is there to stay.

The Arab League's push for an international Middle East peace conference, under United Nations auspices, underlines the understanding that Israel is a reality and cannot be crushed. The Palestine Liberation Organisation's recognition of Israel's right to exist exemplifies that.

The Syria-Egypt reconciliation is the latest step toward ending decades of division in the Arab world.

Syria and Jordan made up in 1985 after years of dispute. Last year, Syria restored relations, broken off in 1986, with Morocco.

Egypt came in from the cold in 1987 after a decade of ostracism over its 1979 peace treaty with Israel. Marxist South Yemen and conservative North Yemen are striving toward unity after a 20-year split.

In crisis-torn Lebanon, which Arab rivals have long used as a proxy battleground, the 22-member

Arab League brokered a peace treaty in October aimed at ending the 14-year-old civil war.

The treaty has stalled because of Christian leader Gen. Michel Aoun's rejection of it. But the Arab League had finally taken the bull by the horns after years of impotently watching as Lebanon tore itself apart.

Last year, two regional alliances — the foundation Arab Co-operation Council and the five-state Arab Maghreb Union — were formed and grouped the nine countries in economic and defence blocs founded on the common interests of their members rather than outright political unity.

They followed the six-member Gulf Co-operation Council, formed in 1981.

But analysts said these groups still have a long way to go before they can become effective as the Arab world faces increasing economic integration in Europe, their biggest trading bloc, and the uncertainties posed by the partial crumbling of East-West power blocs.

"It's wonderful that the leaders meet," said Prof. Kamel Abu Jaber, president of Jordan's World Affairs Council. "But does that mean this is reality? I don't think so."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, citing super-power détente, the European Economic Community's plan for economic unity in 1992 and reforms in Eastern Europe, noted earlier this month: "In this region, we are concerned primarily with increasing our ability to deal with the European entity that is moving fast toward unity... this new giant that will not confine itself to the EEC countries, but will extend to East European countries sooner or later."

Hesitated in an interview with Cairo's Al-Ahram newspaper that greater Arab cohesion "does not mean entering into mergers or anything similar."

"If we set ourselves such an illusory aim at this stage, we will not accomplish anything at all and thus we will lose the possible in pursuing the impossible."

Jaber noted: "Looking at it in the historical perspective, the regionalisation of the Arab world, the attempt to make smaller unity rather than one great Arab unity, is a reflection of a certain maturity among... Arab leaders."

The world's 210 million Arabs live in 21 countries across a swath of territory that stretches from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean.

They share a common language, Arabic, and culture, a history of conquest and a majority religion, Islam.

Despite a common enemy, Israel, and their quest for greater unity, the modern history of the Arabs has often been one of discord based in part on traditional tribal rivalries.

Syria led the Arab boycott of Egypt after President Anwar Sadat visited occupied Jerusalem in 1977. It broke off relations with Cairo that year and was followed by 16 other Arab countries when Egypt signed the 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

President Hafez Assad still adamantly opposes the treaty while Hosni Mubarak holds firmly to the agreement. It is a sign of the changing times that this did not prevent them from resuming diplomatic relations last month.

Western diplomats in Damascus said the move was prompted largely by Assad's desire to escape from increasing isolation in the region following the Arab summit decision to re-admit Egypt to the Arab League, the oldest regional grouping founded in March 1945 under British auspices.

Euphoria over possible German unity fades

BONN: When the Berlin Wall was opened amid joyful and emotional scenes last November, it seemed here that anything was possible — even the rapid re-emergence of a united Germany.

Two months later, the euphoria is evaporating as West Germans look at the political and economic problems facing their neighbours.

In West Germany, whose constitution is committed to unity after more than four decades of German division, the emotion-laden issue has transformed the political landscape.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) will make unity the key issue in their campaign for elections in December.

"1990 will be a year of destiny for us Germans," CDU General Secretary Volker Ruehe said in a strongly nationalistic New Year message to party officials. "For us Germans the question... of the state unity of our fatherland is on the agenda."

Egon Bahr, foreign affairs expert for the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), said: "This is something we have dreamed about for decades and now the situation is here."

Behind the rhetoric, concern is growing about the scale of the problems overshadowing relations between the two states that emerged from the rubble of Western and Soviet occupation zones after Germany's defeat in World War Two.

West Germans are starting to realise just how daunting East Germany's economic problems are and Kohl is still working hard to try to convince Bonn's allies and neighbours that a united Germany would not destabilise Europe.

In East Germany, the communists are accused of having dug in their heels over opposition demands for reform.

The East German communists oppose unification but thousands of people see it as the only hope for their battered economy. Demonstrations chant "Germany — one fatherland" and nearly 1,800 people a day are still moving to the West.

Kohl stands by the vision of a united "fatherland" which he unveiled in a 10-point unity programme in November.

He proposed joint government commissions and wide-ranging contacts, arguing that close ins-

titutional ties could lead painlessly to unification some time in the future.

Talks between Kohl's ministers and their East German counterparts, aimed at creating what both sides call a "community of treaties," have got off to a slow start.

Bonn's Economics Ministry says East German proposals for economic reform are disappointing and do not go far enough.

Bonn will not release more than 10 billion marks (\$5 billion) in aid until it is satisfied that serious free market reforms are under way.

West German Environment Minister Klaus Toepfer, who has promised money to clean up East Germany, was shocked to discover that its pollution problems were worse than anyone had imagined.

Kohl's dilemma is to ensure that the help urgently needed to improve the quality of life for ordinary East Germans gets through as quickly as possible without being seen to enhance the credibility of the unelected government.

Art Buchwald

New game plan for Dan Quayle

A NEW game plan for Dan Quayle has been worked out. President Bush gets to praise Mikhail Gorbachev and Quayle gets to criticize him.

"We're working both sides of the street," my White House source told me. "In that way we keep the American conservatives and the Communists happy."

"It's hard to read Bush's lips and watch the vice-president speak with a forked tongue at the same time," I confessed.

"Bush likes it that way. Besides, anything that Quayle says isn't going to hurt the President's policy," he said.

"Who made the decision for Quayle to beat up on Gorbachev?"

"The way I heard it is that Quayle went to see Bush in his office one day and complained that he had nothing to do."

"Bush said that he would let him light the Christmas tree on the Mall. Quayle informed him that Marilyn felt he should do something more vice-presidential, like warning the country of the Red Menace."

"The President said that events were going along nicely in the Eastern Bloc and he wasn't sure that this was the right time to question Soviet foreign policy."

"So Quayle had a tantrum on the Oval Office

rug and screamed that the Soviet Union was a totalitarian country and an even bigger danger to the world than Bulgaria."

"I didn't think that Quayle cared that much for foreign policy," I told him.

"He persuaded the President that he could rattle sabers between golf games. Bush would be the eye-sayer and Quayle the nay-sayer of the administration, and when the right got mad at Bush, Bush could feed them Quayle. It's a beautiful way of convincing the country that the White House has everything under control."

"Does Quayle dislike Gorbachev?"

"Yes, because he heard that Gorbachev said Dan is a pipsqueak and a lightweight. Gorbachev once told his staff that he would never get into a boat in Malta with Quayle. The important thing is not that Quayle suggested he oppose the President, but that Bush accepted it. The President has agreed to be criticized by his vice-president to further the cause of right-wing jingoism in the United States."

"So can we expect more criticism from Quayle on the Bush foreign policy?"

"Dan is very excited to be allowed to take on the issues. There are a lot of people out there who don't like the idea of all those Commie

countries getting their freedom, but Quayle is the only one in the administration who believes that it's a trick. Once he took the hard-line stance, they even booked him on the Barbara Walters show."

"President Bush has yet to reveal whether Dan Quayle bugs him or not. As a former vice-president, Bush knows how tough it is for a vice-president to keep busy. Therefore he is grateful that Dan has something to do. The President has put out the word that people are not to jump on Quayle just because he is marching to a different drummer."

"Or singing a different tune from the same songbook," I added.

"Something like that. The plan is to continue with Quayle attacking Bush to appease those who are mad at Gorbachev. The conservatives feel that the President is much too liberal for them, but that Quayle is about right. Remember this, communism may be dead in Europe, but anti-communism is very much alive in this country."

"How do you know this?"

"Ever since Quayle started Gorbachev-bashing he has received more invitations to give dinner speeches than President Bush." Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Letters to the editor

Hamdard University

SIR: After the completion of Bait al Hikmat, Hamdard University Library and the provision of the necessary research facilities in it, the Advisory Council of Madinat al Hikmat has decided to put in all efforts for the establishment of the Faculty of Science of Hamdard University. The Advisory Council meeting was held on Dec 11, 1989 and was presided over by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan who is also the Patron-in-Chief of Madinat al Hikmat. The Board of Trustees of Hamdard has laid down a sum of Rs35 million for the cause of continuous scientific research in the field of medicine and its allied branches, focussing on the Chemistry and Pharmacology of the Natural Products. Work on the project will begin in 1990.

Keeping in view the valuable reference and research material housed at Bait al Hikmat it has been insured for a sum of Rs140 million. Another important component of Madinat al Hikmat is Hamdard Public School and Al Furqan, hostel for 2000 orphans. It is spread over 100 acres and will cost Rs300 million.

Hamdard University's Faculty of Science will have institutes of Traditional Medicine, Pharmacology and Clinical Engineering, Biotechnology and Bio-Engineering, Medical Elementology, Chemical Engineering, Biochemistry, Computer Sciences and Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.

Wahab Siddiqui
Public Relations Executive
Hamdard University

Visa rackets

SIR: This is to bring to your attention the hardships faced due to cheating by a leader who established his own foundation under the banner of a reputed catering company.

He brought me to Kuwait to work for the catering company and did not pay me the agreed salary, but collected the amount for the visa. Can the United Malaysia Organisation critics react to this matter?

Now the leader does not work for the catering company but has started his own company and his visa business is expanding. Kuwait's government should stop issuing visas to such type of establishments. I wonder how the embassy authorities stamp the attestation.

A Depressed Keralite
(Name and address supplied)

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"An augmented flow of resources would stimulate growth of the low income countries. But, unfortunately, development assistance from the industrialised nations has not reached the desired level. Global peace and stability would benefit the rich countries personally. It would be the best way to ensure the development of the world." — The official BSS news agency quoted President Hussain Muhammad Ershad as saying.

"President Cristiani is showing he has control of his country. President Cristiani, a duly elected president... will move forward as fast as he can (in bringing charges against the killers). We'd like to have seen those people already brought to justice." — Dan Quayle praising Salvadoran President for efforts of tracking down the killers of the six Jesuit priests in El Salvador.

"Very soon — with US help, Great Britain, France — the great powers... will solve the problem of reunification of the whole Romanian people. I am convinced the huge (Soviet) empire will break up very, very soon. There isn't any choice." — A Moldavian hoping for eventual reunification of Moldavians.

"But those who want Iran always to be poor and dependent greatly fear policies which lead Iran towards economic development and self-sufficiency, and oppose these policies in very complex and conspiratorial manner." Iranian leader Ali Khamenei slamming critics of the government.

"I read that the first thing to sell out in West Berlin on the day the Wall came down wasn't TVs or drunks. It was fresh fruit. In Romania, citizens knew freedom had arrived because for the first time in many years they saw food on the grocery store shelves." — Bush on American opportunities in the East bloc.

"Cristiani has shown great courage. We ask the investigation be thorough and the prosecution move ahead, and it looks like that is the course he is on. He deserves a lot of credit." Martin Fitzwater on investigations in El Salvador to arrest those responsible for killing six Jesuit priests.

"The oil market has improved markedly and has a certain stability. Each Opec member has a right to demand the quotas it desires, that are fair, and conform with their petroleum potential." — UAE's Mansur Al Otaiba on the need to increase quotas.

"I do not condone apartheid, nor do I condone what happened in Nazi Germany to my people. I am extremely sorry about the reaction in Israel, and I believe that my complete statements were taken out of context and not released in full." — Mansdorf, Israeli tennis star apologising to Israelis after hurting their feelings.

"I don't know if I'm going to go back in a short while. The only reason I might go back is because my girlfriend lives in the army there and she can't travel, she can't leave the country. I probably wouldn't go back there for the next few months." — Amos Mansdorf on going back to Israel after making statements against Israeli sentiments.

"It's easier to pick on an Israeli than to pick on an American. I'm not the only guy who plays in South Africa but every time I play there there's a big demonstration outside. Other people play. But they don't make a special effort like when I play." — Mansdorf on not being the only guy who plays in apartheid South Africa.

"The manoeuvres could be inspired by the best intentions but they are poorly carried out. The character of intimidation is what makes them lose their capacity to be a simple naval training exercise." — Former Colombian president Turbay on US use of warships off Colombia to fight drug shipments.

"When we hear of bombings, obscene phone calls, rape mail — each one of us must speak out. And there is no place for the baggage of bigotry in the United States of America." — Bush at a ceremony honouring the assassinated civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

"We know, for instance, that more than half of the homicides that we've seen in the 1980s were somehow related to drug abuse or drug trafficking. We certainly attribute a lot of these numbers to the scourge of drugs. We're talking about people committing crimes while under the influence, and people committing crimes to get money to purchase drugs." — Los Angeles official on the drug menace.

INTERNATIONAL

Call for German unity grows

EAST BERLIN, Jan 14, (AP): East Germany's most influential opposition political party today called for German unity, one day after joining forces with its sister party from Bonn.

The Social Democrats' call comes as the two German states take daily steps towards closer ties, despite insistence from East Germany's current communist leadership that the country must remain independent.

West German chancellor Helmut Kohl travelled into East Berlin. The government press office in Bonn said Kohl's visit was "completely private" and East Germany's official news agency ADN said Kohl declined to specify the reason for his trip.

"Our political goal is a united Germany," the East German Social Democrats said in a statement today morning at a party convention in East Berlin.

It said that if the Social Democrats lead the government after elections in May, they will undertake "the necessary steps on the way to German unity" in agreement with the government in Bonn.

"Whatever is possible immediately, should happen immediately," the Social Democrats added.

The East German Social Democrats joined forces with their leftist West German counterparts, who are in opposition to Kohl's Christian Democrats.

The West Germans promised campaign support for their colleagues in East Berlin, making the Social Democrats a top contender when East Germans go to the polls in less than four months.

With 32,000 East German members, the Social Democrats are the largest opposition political party.

The New Forum opposition group, with an estimated 200,000 members, remains a diffuse organisation with conflicting goals and little interest in becoming a formal political party.

Yesterday, ADN said communist Premier Hans Modrow offered Social Democrats leader Ibrahim Boeckme the post of deputy environmental minister.

However, today East German state radio quoted Boeckme as saying that he had only heard new media reports about the offer, and had not been approached directly.

East Germans crowded stores yesterday, seeking goods before the announced increases for certain items take effect tomorrow.

The government claims the limited increases are necessary as it starts dismantling the costly and inefficient state subsidies for dozens of basic goods, including clothing and food.

Meanwhile, East German Economics Minister Christa Luft, a communist, became the highest-ranking East German official to call for a free-market economy.

"It must be an efficient free-market economy that proves itself to be internationally competitive," Mrs Luft told leading West German industrialists, including Daimler-Benz chief Edzard Reuter and Volkswagen chairman Carl Hahn.

Hong Kong march for democracy

HONG KONG, Jan 14, (AP): About 100 activists marched to the governor's house today to demand government democratisation in Hong Kong before Britain hands the colony over to China in 1997.

They presented a petition addressed to British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd, who is on a four-day visit to the territory.

Marching from a downtown park to governor's house, the demonstrators chanted, "we want democracy, we want human rights" and "full democracy to people of Hong Kong."

"We are not asking for sympathy from Britain, we are asking for the rights we deserve," said Yeung Sum, a march spokesman. "We hope Hurd would respect Hong Kong people's wishes to set up a democratic political system in 1991."

The demonstration was organised by the joint

committee on the promotion of democratic government, which claims 150 trade unions, student groups and other organisations.

In the letter to Hurd, the committee said Hong Kong is a political orphan because "China suppresses pro-democracy movements in Hong Kong and Britain betrays Hong Kong people's rights."

"We who cannot emigrate have to face this problem... and set up a real democratic political system," the letter said.

Under a 1984 agreement, Hong Kong is to retain its free-wheeling capitalist system and a high degree of autonomy for 50 years after 1997.

But since the June 4 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in China, confidence in Beijing's promise has evaporated.

The protesters called for 20 seats, or more than 35 per cent, of Hong Kong's legislature to be directly elected in polls scheduled for 1991.

The Hong Kong government decided in 1988 that only 10 members would be directly elected in the 1991 polls.

But since June 4, the government has been pushing a plan to speed up the pace and extent of democratisation in the colony. The government currently is calling for 18 of the 56 seats to be contested in 1991, about 50 per cent in 1997 and 100 per cent in 2003.

Currently 24 of the 56 members in the legislative council are elected by bodies representing labour, business and districts. The others are appointed by the government.



Hundreds of flag-waving demonstrators march towards the Hong Kong government's house, where Hurd was staying. (Reuters wirephoto)



Held, the last one

The youngest son of Nicolae Ceausescu appeared in handcuffs on Romanian television as did a string of close associates of the executed dictator.

Valentin Ceausescu was the last of Ceausescu's children to be arrested. Younger brother Nicu and sister Zoe are also being held awaiting trial.

Prosecutor general Gheorghe Rotu said the first dos-

es of close associates of Ceausescu would be investigated by the relevant bodies in the coming week. He did not elaborate.

Ceausescu was ousted in a bloody uprising on Dec 22. He and his wife Elena were executed on Christmas Day. The picture taken from Romanian television shows Valentin (Reuters wirephoto)

Ceausescu men face trial

Open to press, public

BUCHAREST, Jan 14, (Reuters): Public trials of arrested members of Nicolae Ceausescu's ousted communist regime will open in Romania this week, an official of the ruling National Salvation Front said today.

The trials will include top leaders from the Ceausescu era and members of the dictator's fanatical Securitate secret police who fought troops and civilian insurgents in an attempt to halt last month's revolution.

The trials will start in the middle of the week. They'll be open to the press and the public," Adrian Sirbu, the Front press coordinator, told Reuters.

State Prosecutor Gheorghe Rotu said in a published interview the major charges would be complicity to commit genocide, creating conditions for genocide, pre-meditated murder and sabotage of the national economy.

"Please be assured that no one who is guilty will escape responsibility for his actions," he told the Romania Libera newspaper.

Romanians have demanded blood for blood in revenge for the estimated 10,000 people killed in last month's revolution that toppled Ceausescu.

Many were incensed that a January 1 Front decision to scrap the death penalty would let off members of the hated secret police who fought bloody last-ditch battles to keep Ceausescu in power.

But on Friday, a day of national mourning for the dead, the Front changed tack in the face of mass anti-communist demonstrations in the capital and announced a referendum for January 28 on the death penalty.

Last night, interim President Ion Iliescu announced another abrupt about-face over the future of the Communist Party which ruled Romania for four decades.

Despite a Friday decree outlawing the party, Iliescu said the January 28 plebiscite would now decide that issue too.

He admitted in a live television broadcast that Front leaders had been widely criticised as giving way to mob rule in banning the party during the chaotic demon-

stration outside front headquarters in central Bucharest on Friday night.

Iliescu also appealed for national unity, saying anarchy could only lead to dictatorship. Prime Minister Petre Roman meanwhile emphasised the need to rebuild an economy he described as a disaster.

The Communist Party, proportionately one of the biggest in Eastern Europe, had 3.8 million members, or about one in three of the working population.

Membership was virtually obligatory for government employees, workers in state enterprises and professional people. The Front has made clear it wants to try only communists who held top positions in the Ceausescu tyranny.

In his interview with Romania Libera, Rotu said legal experts were working around the clock to bring leading members of the Ceausescu regime and hundreds of "terrorists" to trial as soon as possible.

The Front uses the term terrorists to describe Securitate members and others who fought to keep Ceausescu in power.

Some minor members of the Ceausescu security forces, members of the police militia who attacked demonstrators or the army which joined the revolution — have already been sentenced to prison terms by a special military court in the central provincial capital of Sibiu.

The Front says the genocide charges to be faced by leading Ceausescu associates relate to massacres and killings during the revolution itself and some 50,000 people — 40 a week — executed during Ceausescu's 24-year rule.

Asked how many people were involved, Rotu said: "It is difficult to answer, but it is important that political and administrative leaders of the former dictatorship, members of the Ceausescu family and hundreds of terrorists, all of them under arrest, will appear in court."

Another newspaper, Timorului Liber (Free Youth), reported Interior Minister Mihail Ghitac as saying around 800 people were under arrest.

Djebel, at the end of a narrow road near the Greek border, was at the heart of ethnic tensions last summer when the government cracked down on protests against an assimilation campaign which forced ethnic Turks to change their Islamic names and curbed religious practices.

Turks doubt Sofia steps

DJEBEL, Bulgaria, Jan 14, (Reuters): Tension between Bulgarian nationalists and the country's ethnic Turkish minority flickered beneath the surface at the weekend despite an agreement to safeguard both minority and national interests.

An 11-point declaration drawn up on Friday by Bulgarian nationalists, Muslims, government and opposition representatives pledged to restore ethnic Turkish names and religious rights while making clear the minority would not be allowed autonomy.

Ethnic Turks who clustered around Western journalists in this remote southeastern village said the agreement seemed to have quelled a wave of anti-Turkish street protests that swept the country at the beginning of the month. But they were doubtful the promises would be put into practice.

"A lot of people are still afraid to speak, especially in front of Western journalists," said one ethnic Turk in the village square.

Another bystander pointed to a raincoat man on the edge of the crowd and whispered "police."

"If everyone follows the 11 points, it could lead to a quiet life," another villager commented. "But it would be foolish to be optimistic and we must wait and see how it is implemented."

The ruling Communist Party's December 29 decision to restore Muslim rights tapped an undercurrent of ethnic rivalry and mistrust dating back to 500 years of Ottoman rule and spawned a wave of anti-Turkish nationalist demonstrations.

Djebel, at the end of a narrow road near the Greek border, was at the heart of ethnic tensions last summer when the government cracked down on protests against an assimilation campaign which forced ethnic Turks to change their Islamic names and curbed religious practices.

Gorbachev hints at multiparty system

Lithuanians warned on independence

VILNIUS, Jan 14, (UPI): Mikhail Gorbachev indicated for the first time yesterday that he does not oppose the establishment of a multiparty system in the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev, ending a three-day visit to Lithuania, also cautioned those striving for independence in the Baltic republic against "setting sail in a small boat, without a compass or weather forecast."

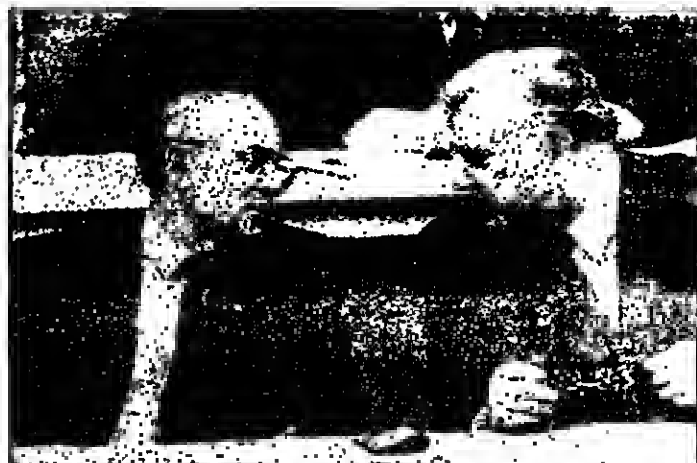
But the Soviet leader confirmed his "promise" of a new law spelling out specific steps for any of the country's 15 republics to secede.

At the conclusion of a four-hour meeting with Lithuanian party leaders and activists, Gorbachev softened his previous harsh opposi-

tion to allowing any rivals for power to the Soviet Communist Party that has ruled since the 1917 Bolshevik revolution.

Lithuania's party chief Algirdas Brazauskas told Gorbachev that political realities forced Lithuanian communists to form the first independent Communist Party in Soviet history in the Dec 20 move that brought Gorbachev to the republic.

"Widespread analysis showed that only a party independent of the Soviet Communist Party could be trusted in the republic and remain as a real political force," Brazauskas said. "To do otherwise is to misunderstand the political situation in Lithuania."



Gorbachev and Brazauskas in talks during a meeting with Lithuanian party members and senior managers in Vilnius. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kazimira Trunskiene, another leader of the mutinous Lithuanian communists and the republic's deputy premier, said flatly: "I could not work anymore in a party that no one respected."

Brazauskas said his party's decision to split from the Soviet one had immediately stemmed from its plummeting membership and that 30 people have joined the breakaway party in the last three weeks.

Although the Soviet Party's central committee decided Dec 26 that Gorbachev should go to Lithuania to deal with the party split, his trip was dominated by the larger question of Lithuanian independence.

At a huge rally in Vilnius after Gorbachev arrived Thursday, 300,000 people from across the republic demonstrated for an end to 50 years of Soviet rule.

Gorbachev used the trip to unveil a novel double-track political strategy.

The Soviet leader stunned his Lithuanian hosts with a disclosure that a law to provide a mechanism for secession is being prepared, but he also introduced and hammered away at the notion of a new Soviet federation.

None of the 15 republics has ever tested an article of the Soviet constitution that gives them a theoretical right to secede.

Politburo member Vadim Medvedev told reporters the proposed secession law, which still must be introduced and considered in the Soviet parliament, "will show that the right to self-determination is not an empty phrase, but a reality."

Albania mystery

BELGRADE, Jan 14, (AP): Conflicting reports emerged yesterday on conditions in Albania, and the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug appeared to backtrack from a previous report of virtual emergency measures there.

Greek newspapers, meanwhile, reported that an Albanian border guard who deserted to Greece this week claimed security forces fired on demonstrators during widespread protests in the isolated communist country.

Also yesterday, the Albanian state-run news agency Afa quoted an Italian diplomat as denying there was unrest in Albania.

Tanjug said information available at the Yugoslav-Albanian border yesterday suggested "nothing unusual, nothing special" was occurring in Albania.

On Friday, it had reported: "Albanian authorities in an effort to prevent unrest against the regime have imposed extremely strict control measures in the country."

The Friday report said the security measures "can be termed a state of emergency," but did not say when the measures allegedly were imposed.

Yesterday, Tanjug said Yugoslav border authorities, police and customs officials, as well as travellers, mostly foreign truck drivers, reported nothing unusual.

It said diplomats in Albania made their usual shopping trips yesterday to the Yugoslav towns of Struga and Ohrid.

Greek newspapers reported Albert Tzeka, 20, crossed the Albanian border on Tuesday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet plane crash kills 23: Twenty-three people were killed and 30 were injured when a Soviet passenger plane with an engine on fire crashed on Saturday in the Ural mountains, Soviet Television reported, citing preliminary casualty figures.

The TU-134 plane with 70 people aboard crashed at 1 pm Moscow time (1100 GMT) in a field 45 km (30 miles) from Sverdlovsk, on a flight from Tyumen to Volgograd. (Reuters)

Drug addicts babies: A dozen babies were born at the general hospital in Kuala Lumpur over the past two years with a craving for drug — the deadly stuff their mothers were addicted to.

These were the cases confirmed by the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (Scan) team which has been monitoring such babies since it was formed a few years ago.

The infants had withdrawal symptoms because they had cultivated a dependence on drug while in the womb. Some were treated for convulsions while others were jittery. (Kuna)

US and Soviets to resume talks: The United States and the Soviet Union resume talks on limiting underground nuclear tests on Monday with both sides expecting final agreement by the middle of the year.

"They're definitely trying to finish before the June summit," one US official said referring to a planned meeting between Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev. "They're very close."

Soviet Ambassador Igor Palenikh said on arrival in Geneva on Saturday that he intended the current round to be the last, and he was willing to stay until June if necessary without a break. (Reuters)

Storm turns to typhoon: Tropical storm Koryn has become a full-fledged typhoon, lashing the US Pacific territory of Guam with strong winds and heavy rains, toppling trees and flooding low-lying areas, authorities said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage to structures.

As of 2 am EST (0700 GMT) had sustained winds of 75 miles per hour (120 kph per hour), with gusts to 90 miles per hour (145 kph per hour), according to Navy Lt. Joe A. Tanager of the joint typhoon warning centre rapid response team. (AP)

US District Judge John H. Moore II ordered Friday that Jack Carlton Reed, 59, serve two consecutive life terms for his October conviction of conspiring to distribute cocaine and operating a continuing criminal enterprise. (UPI)

Five killed in crash in Chile: The bodies of five people, including officials of Chilean and US food agencies, were found Saturday in the wreckage of their small aircraft, which crashed three days ago in the Andes mountains.

A helicopter discovered the wreckage of the Cessna aircraft and confirmed that all aboard had perished when the plane crashed at about 10,000 feet (3,000m) on a mountain near the city of Copiapo in northern Chile, authorities said. The bodies were to be recovered Sunday, police said. (UPI)

Violence and strike in Haiti: A young political activist was shot and a union leader was arrested during a general strike in Port Au Prince, Haiti, called by labour, civilian and political organisations. Radio Metropole reported Saturday.

Jude Jean-Jacques, secretary-general of the leftist youth association for popular power, or Ajppopa, was shot and wounded by a civilian in the right shoulder Friday near Carrefour, 10 miles south of the capital, the radio said. (UPI)

Garbage men strike in Greece: Piles of garbage blocked Athens streets yesterday and striking rubbish collectors said their five-day-old stoppage would be extended until Wednesday.

Radio and television stations urged residents to keep their garbage at home but tonnes of uncollected rubbish have already begun to block pavements in the Greek capital. (Reuters)

UK to cut Aids deaths: Official British government estimates that the number of Aids deaths expected in the UK in the next four years have been cut from 17,000 to 5,000, it was reported Sunday.

A government report, to be published in February, shows that worst fears about the disease have not so far been realised, the Sunday Times newspaper said. (Kuna)

Soviet store manager's tactics: Store managers in the Russian city of Volgda, where waiting lists for furniture have reached 50 years, have a new tactic — allocating scarce goods by buyers' birthdays.

Dissident wins poll

BUDAPEST, Jan 14, (Reuters): A leading Hungarian opposition politician has boosted his Liberal Alliance of Free Democrats in the runup to general elections by winning a parliamentary by-election in central Budapest.

Gaspar Miklos Tamas, a prominent dissident before communist rule over Hungary disintegrated last year, took 55 per cent of the vote in yesterday's poll, the last real test of public opinion before the March 25 nationwide multi-party elections.

An "Independent" candidate backed by the Socialist Party, founded to succeed the Communist Party last October, polled around 33 per cent and a third candidate some 11 per cent.

Tamas, a 41-year-old philosopher, is the first former dissident in Hungary to win a seat in parliament.

Kaifu in Warsaw to assess Polish reforms

WARSAW, Jan 14, (AP): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu of Japan arrived today for a two-day visit that Polish officials hope will help overcome Japanese scepticism about Poland's ability to achieve real economic reform.

Kaifu was met at Warsaw's Okęcie airport by Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and other members of the Solidarity-led government.

The Japanese leader arrived from Rome on the seventh day of a 10-day tour of Europe which is taking him to seven countries.

The visit comes as Poland is actively seeking financial and technical support from developed

countries to implement a radical economic reform plan aimed to develop a market-oriented economic system in Poland.

Economic powerhouses like West Germany and the United States have led the way in pledging aid to the newly elected Solidarity-led government, while Japan has remained cautious in its approach.

The Japanese always showed interest in the market, but financial co-operation was always limited. They were sceptical in the past, but this visit may be the beginning of a change," said a senior Polish Finance Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

But the official also said Warsaw was encouraged by the \$150 million US Japan already has pledged to a stabilisation fund to support the transformation of the zloty into a convertible currency.

The aid is in the form of a long-term credit at a preferential rate of 2.9 per cent interest.

"It's an important signal," the Finance Ministry official said. "The Japanese are beginning to show some flexibility."

Poland is hoping for Japanese support at Paris club negotiations for Warsaw's request for restructuring its \$38-billion debt. Poland owes \$1.3 billion to Japan.

ARAB TIMES GRAND BINGO

Competition No. 75

PRIZES

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Top Line: KD 25
Four Corners: KD 25

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3. Fill in your name and address in the
4. appropriate lines on the form, in block letters.
5. Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
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When you have a claim, phone: 4813566/272 or 287 between 12 noon and 1 pm. Claims after 1 pm WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. You or anyone telephoning for you must have your copy card when the claim is made.

Is the initial of your surname in the front of the envelope?

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE AND INITIAL OF YOUR SURNAME ON THE LEFT HAND TOP CORNER IN FRONT. This is essential for the speedy checking of claims. Entries received without names and initials as mentioned above will be disqualified. When you have completed your entry

card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to: BINGO, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat Kuwait. A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh.

Sheikh Saad's visit to boost ties

A NUMBER of Egyptian ministers yesterday expressed satisfaction over the results of His Highness The Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah's recent visit to Egypt, pointing out that it came amid international political changes.

Egyptian State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Atef Obeid told a local daily that Kuwait-Egyptian relations will witness more development and co-operation in economic, political and social fields in the future.

The newly appointed Interior Minister Mohammed Abdel Halim Moussa

emphasised the strong relations that link the two Arab brotherly countries.

Moussa, who took office last Friday, pledged he will conduct direct dialogue with all political forces and parties in Egypt on the basis of constitution, legitimacy, and the law.

The Egyptian interior minister rejected the use of violence in dealing with opposition parties.

Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif for his part said the visit reflects strong ties and co-operation between the two countries, citing Sheikh Saad's visit comes at a time of international political

changes which require new Arab political and economic strategies.

He added that Kuwait and Egypt have signed an agreement on joint information work.

Al Sharif said that the visit of Sheikh Saad was successful by all measures and has reflected the deep bilateral relations.

The Egyptian official described the Kuwaiti-Egyptian media co-ordination as of "historical roots."

He pointed out that the visit of Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad to Egypt last year, has highlighted some important issues of

mutual concern, particularly bilateral information relations.

An Egyptian daily said that the Egyptian-Kuwaiti negotiations stressed on exerting efforts for boosting Arab unified work.

The Egyptian-Kuwaiti talks were an example for fostering relations "Al Ahras" said, adding that an agreement was reached on establishing a company with joint capital equally paid by Cairo and Kuwait.

The daily praised this step by saying that it boosts further investment between the two countries and the setting up of joint ventures.

Plan to step up security vigilance

THE director-general of the General Police Communications and Patrols Department, Col. Mohammed Al Qatani has said that the department has of late used up-to-date telecommunication system to strengthen and reinforce its operational contacts with all relevant departments at the ministry and also with police patrols to step up security and stability in the country.

He said patrols are being enhanced to all areas on a 24-hour basis, and the department is linked to various police posts, through terminals to facilitate the needed data and quick response.

He told a local daily that police patrols would respond quickly to all help-calls made directly to the patrol on number 199.

He pointed out that the patrols would also perform humanitarian and social services, such as replacing flat tyres to elderly people or women, supplying petrol to cars, dropping people off to their houses during late hours.

He stressed the importance of clear dictation of address and names over the phone when reporting a case of emergency so that the police patrol would get there as quickly as possible.

He said that police patrols would also escort truck convoys which enter Kuwait en route to another country all the way across the country up to the destined border and customs checkpoints.

He added that police patrols would, on a regular monthly basis, escort as many as 11 trucks and carry out security inspection on around 25,000 others.

Captain Adnan Nassar, operations officer, said that the 199-police switchboard contained 12 lines, of which only eight were operational adding that calls dialed through these lines would be identified through the computer, whereby the caller's number and calling time would be registered automatically.

He added that the switchboard was linked to 40 different vital security installations and posts in the country through hot-lines for quick action.

He pointed out that the switchboard mechanism was also fitted with a special system to receive the minister's calls and instructions. The related computer bank system contained detailed information on the addresses of different locations, landmarks, streets, areas, hospitals, banks, embassies, public telephone booths, institutes, establishments, always offices, groceries and others which ensures outright location.



Police honoured

A number of traffic police officers have been honoured recently for their devotion and sense of national duty. The honouring ceremony was attended by Colonel Faisal Al Roudhan on behalf of the Director of Al Jahra Traffic Department. Roudhan

praised the officers for their sincere efforts and exemplary services. Roudhan gave away the appreciation certificates and the symbolic gifts to the staff.

Dr Naqeeb rules out sacking of physicians

THE Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Health, Dr Naeel Al Naqeeb has ruled out dismissal of any efficient expatriate physician who sincerely serves the country.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that expatriate physicians who might need more training and expertise will be provided all opportunities by the ministry.

He praised the level of the Kuwait University's Faculty of Medicine graduates, clarifying that the visiting professors had confirmed this fact and had also praised the curriculum of the faculty, adding that the faculty was evaluating its programmes annually.

Naqeeb disclosed that the ministry's need of graduates to work in the medical services and clinics will be secured through the faculty, adding that the ministry is ready to accommodate the graduates every year.

Naqeeb lauded the role performed by Kuwait institute for Medical Specialisations for training programmes and its co-operation with the foreign medical association for the upgrading of the performance of physicians in Kuwait.

Ibrahim meeting

BOARD Chairman and Director-General of Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Sheikh Ibrahim Dujaili Al Ibrahim Al Sabah, received at his office Federal Republic of Germany's Ambassador to Kuwait Claus H. Soenksen.

Chalet allotment at Bubiyan isle

Step to reorganise Shuwaikh

THE Council of Ministers has agreed to distribute 2,560 chalets to citizens in Bubiyan Island this month, Abdul Hameed Hussein, assistant undersecretary at the Ministry of Finance for State Properties Affairs said.

He added that the chalets overlooking the area will have an area of 450 square metres each with an area of 750 square metres at the backside.

Chalets will be sold for 50 fils per square metre in the open area and 250 fils a metre at covered areas. Presently the state properties department rents 2,270 chalets in all areas.

The department will be distributing shops at Al Amir Souk during the first half of this year and priority will be accorded to owners of previous shops in the same souk.

From the several alternatives presented by the Ministry of Planning to develop Shuwaikh Industrial Area, authorities have selected to re-organise the area by connecting Shuwaikh and Rai industrial areas with flyovers and

increasing services there as well as constructing squares.

The authorities have decided to do away with some garages, spare-part shops and others, shift some dangerous factories like oxygen and the chemical industries to other areas.

The Council of Ministers had taken a decision on this proposal but the Ministry of Commerce said that the decision would affect owners of these factories and allotments. Consequently the government cancelled its decision and changed the name of Shuwaikh to Shuwaikh Commercial or professional area instead of Industrial Area.

A joint committee from the department, municipality and Ministry of Commerce was set up to follow up solutions to problems in the area that included shifting some shops and giving licences to others. These solutions are being carried out by the committee.

Husaid stressed that his department removed 96 houses that were possessed by the department during the past period.

Registration

THE Community Service and Continuous Education Department (PAAET) has announced that the registration period for the second term 1989/90 has been extended, effective Sunday, Jan 7, 1990.

Interested persons should apply personally to the Community Service and Continuous Education Department, Dasmann Complex, Sharq (seventh floor) during official hours.

Resignations

A NEW batch of senior officials, who have spent 30 years in service or 16 in their senior positions, are expected to resign soon.

The batch list contains 17 senior officials, of whom ten hold offices ranging between under-secretaries to assistant under-secretaries, while others vary from directors to director-generals.

Iraqi water to flow in by the end of this year

By Fawzi Al Tameem

TRANSPORTATION of water from Iraqi rivers to Kuwait to be used for irrigation purposes is to begin at the end of this year, Saoud Al Naser, head of the Water Department at the Ministry of Electricity and Water said.

The official said that the department is responsible for organising the distribution of fresh and underground water and commented that individual consumption of water in Kuwait is high compared to international averages. Daily averages consumption of water in Kuwait is estimated to be 550 gallons, the official said.

He indicated that the ministry recently signed a contract for establishing water tanks west of Fumayes area to increase the storage capacity. The area is considered one of the most adequate locations due to its natural geographic advantages.

Naser said that the Ministry has come a long way towards resolving the problem of the discoloration of water. The first treatment unit located at Shuwaikh stations began operations in Sept 28, 1987. The unit feeds areas located between the first and third ring roads, including Kuwait City.

Two other contracts have been signed by the ministry for the treatment of water at Doha and Zour stations and these stations are expected to begin operations in 1992.

Regarding the department's plans aimed at serving the consumers, Naser pointed out that it works constantly towards developing its various services, particularly the manpower sector.

2 jailed for selling liquor

THE Criminal Court sentenced a brother and sister to three and a half years imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation for manufacturing and selling alcohol.

The court was told that acting on prior information, security men of the Salihiya Police Station raided the house of the accused and seized several bottles of alcohol along with a mini distillery.

The man confessed that his sister manufactured the alcohol, while he was responsible for its sale.

Donation appeal

THE Bangladesh Association is collecting blankets as relief material for cold-wave victims of Bangladesh. Expatriates can donate their blankets to the official representatives of the association at Bangladesh embassy premises between 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm everyday upto January 24, says a press release of the association.

Eye patients warned of quacks in business

MOST of the residents who suffer from eyesight problems call on spectacle shops who are supposed to be run and managed by eye specialists.

A number of violations were reported by residents alleging that some of the shops were not well-equipped and qualified for the job. In order to highlight this issue, a local daily interviewed a number of technicians and owners.

Al Hadi Abdul Rahman who has obtained a diploma in optics and is currently working at a spectacles shop stated that his job is to prepare spectacles after conducting necessary eye tests.

He said that such tests are carried out on patients to figure out the thickness, measurements and type of lenses required to correct the eye sight of a patient.

He said that an eye technician should at least receive a three years minimum schooling in this field after the general secondary stage.

In England for example, he said, schooling on optics entails five years training and in the USA it is a six year period.

He stressed that conducting an eye test on a specific patient is not an easy task and requires high qualifications and experience. We not only conduct tests but also follow up the progress of patients.

In addition, Abdul Rahman indicated, some of the patients may suffer other health problems and it is the duty of the technician to refer them to an eye specialist for proper treatment.

Another optician, Mamdouh Afnan stated that his job is only restricted to making and designing spectacles. He added that eye testers are considered to be qualified doctors assistants. He stressed that eye testers should have proper licences to practice according to the law issued by the Ministry of Public Health.

He added that many unqualified workers and quacks at spectacles shops depend only on computers to conduct tests on their customers. The computers could err sometimes. He advised patients to ensure that their eyes are tested by conventional methods.



Lipton lucky draw

The second draw of the Lipton's Gold Rush was conducted on Jan 8 at M/S Mohammed Abdul Rahman Al Bahar's office in Shuwaikh. The draw took place under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce represented by Mohammed Abdul Aziz

Al Faraj. Prizes worth one kilo of gold and 10 Noritake tea sets were announced. The third and the last draw on Lipton Gold Rush will be on Jan 29. Once again Lipton will offer one kilo of gold and 10 Noritake tea sets to the lucky winners.

مكتبة الأمل

PLO praises Kuwaiti aid

Support for uprising

BEUGRADE, Jan 14, (Kuna): A senior Palestinian official today praised Kuwait for financial and moral support it has been rendering to the Palestinian people and stressed that escalating the ongoing uprising and diplomatic drive by the PLO are two complementary factors for realising the independent state of Palestine.

Mahmoud Abbas, better known as "Abu Mazin", told Kuna in an exclusive interview during his recent visit here that the PLO would not break off its present dialogue with the United States under any circumstances.

Answering a question of the wide-spread speculation that the PLO had asked Egypt to stop its efforts, in co-operation with Washington and Tel Aviv, for holding direct Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo, Abu Mazin said:

"The Palestinian leadership has never asked Cairo to cease its political efforts in this regard, noting that 'on the contrary we view Egypt's endeavours as significant and must continue'."

Abu Mazin urged for further Arab solidarity and backing for the Palestinian uprising and for supporting the PLO's diplomatic drive.

Regarding the present Arab financial support to the intifada, he stated that only few countries were meeting their commitments. "I would like to assert our appreciation and gratitude for Kuwait in this respect as it was among only three or four countries who meet their commitments towards the PLO and the intifada."

Abu Mazin, who conceded a visit to Yugoslavia on Friday, denied that he met with any Israeli official during his stay here, but he expressed PLO's readiness for further negotiations and contacts with pro-Palestinian groups.

He emphasised that he was prepared to hold talks with Israeli Science Minister Ezer Weizman "due to his brave and far-sighted attitude and because he (Weizman) had discovered before many others the realities of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

"The demand by Weizman, who was known for his political and military role against the Arabs, to recognise the PLO as legitimate representative of the Palestinian people has special meaning," Abu Mazin said.

This means, he went on, that those who fiercely fought against us were recognising our existence, steadfastness and our strength and representation of our people.

The Palestinian official reiterated that the PLO was ready to sit for negotiations with any Israelis who want to find solution for the Palestinian problem, saying that the organisation has nothing to fear in this regard.

He noted that there was growing support for the Palestinian people's rights among the Israelis and "the Zionist hardliners who oppose the Palestinian presence and the right of Palestinian people for self-determination were also increasing but slightly and far behind the rate of supporters," he said.

Amir accepts Qaboos invitation to visit Oman

HIS Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah has welcomed an invitation extended to him by Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman to visit the Sultanate.

Sultan Qaboos invited the Amir to visit Muscat for consultations on issues of common concern within the framework of the Gulf Co-operation Council, according to State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Abdelaziz Al Rashed.

After a regular session for the Council of Ministers yesterday, Al Rashed told reporters that the Amir had sent a reply message to Sultan Qaboos describing the

invitation as a "true illustration of fraternal feelings and intimate ties."

However, Al Rashed did not say when the Amir would visit the Omani capital.

The Cabinet listened to a report by His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem on last week's visit to Egypt which followed a visit by the Amir to Egypt four months ago.

Sheikh Saad briefed the Cabinet on the details of the talks with Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki and other senior officials and the results of the talks which lasted for three days.

Sheikh Saad also had a meeting with

Kuwaiti students in Egypt where he sought to familiarise himself with their academic problems and living conditions.

The Cabinet also listened to reports by ministers who accompanied Sheikh Saad on his visit to Egypt and held talks with Egyptian officials on expanding relations in most fields.

Kuwait and Egypt agreed during the visit to open trade centres in each other's capital to develop increased commercial exchange. The two countries also signed agreements on legal co-operation and real estate investment in addition to

memoranda on joint ventures.

The Council of Ministers expressed "satisfaction on the results of the visit, emphasising the importance of maintaining strong links between the two Arab countries."

On another issue, the council was briefed by Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah on the Bulgarian-Turkish talks sponsored and hosted by Kuwait last week.

The Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah summed up the meeting with the visiting Democratic Yemen Defence Minister Brigadier Saleb

Obeid Ahmad to Kuwait last week and the results of the talks he had with the Yemeni official.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Naser Mohammed Al Ahmad and the Minister of Communications Abdulla Al Sbarhan also acquainted the Cabinet on meetings they participated in recently and the results of the meetings.

The council also accepted a donation made by private citizen Sulaiman Abdulla Al Mansour valued KD2 million for setting up a centre for treatment of addicted people.

Crime conference in Riyadh

RIYADH, Jan 14, (Kuna): Head of the Arab Institute for Security Studies and Training, Farouk Murad said today that the 5th international conference for research work on combating crime comes to co-ordinate Arab participation at the 5th international conference for crime fighting, to be held in Havana this summer.

The 5th conference, which opened its deliberations here last night, is attended by top Arab and international crime experts, chiefs of the criminal courts and crime fighting branch at the UN general secretariat.

In a statement to Kuna, Murad said that this gathering aims at preparing Arab delegations attending the 5th conference, as Arab delegations took part at similar conferences

in the past without previous co-ordination or thorough revision of UN-prepared documents.

He added that documents of the international conference are the fruit of many regional meetings, which crystallise all positions and standpoints on ways of crime fighting.

Murad indicated that the institute had commissioned a number of specialists to make international documents, to be discussed by the Havana conference, available in Arabic for all participants at the Riyadh conference.

He added that specialists were also entrusted with preparing genuine studies, representing Arab religious, legal and social views to be discussed by the 5th conference and then referred to the 5th conference.

NHA distributes plots in Quraia

THE National Housing Authority yesterday distributed 167 residential plots, each of 400 square metres area, in the Quraia, along the sea coast and about 30 kms southeast of Kuwait.

Those handed the plots have applied for housing facility by June 1, 1990, the authority explained.

It indicated that the Quraia residential neighbourhood consists of 701 units, of which the remainder 218 would be distributed on Feb 18 to mark the country's 29th National Day anniversary.

Officials at the authority indicated that all public utilities and services, including roads, water, power and telephone lines have already been extended to every residential unit and called upon owners to be careful not to damage the network in the course of building operations.

They also advised interested

house owners to make use of some 24 different building designs drafted by the authority's engineers and approved by the Kuwait Municipality in return for a nominal fee of KD50.

Environ meet

A TECHNICAL team specialised in environmental researches held a meeting yesterday at the headquarters of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment (Ropme).

Dr Badria Al Awadhi said the meeting seeks to review previous programmes and propose recommendations for future plans and researches.

Special reports will be presented on the status of the marine environment in the region to measure the safety of waters and shores of the countries in the area.

Arab aviation meet next month

THE Arab Organisation for aviation culture holds its second conference in Kuwait from Feb 3-6.

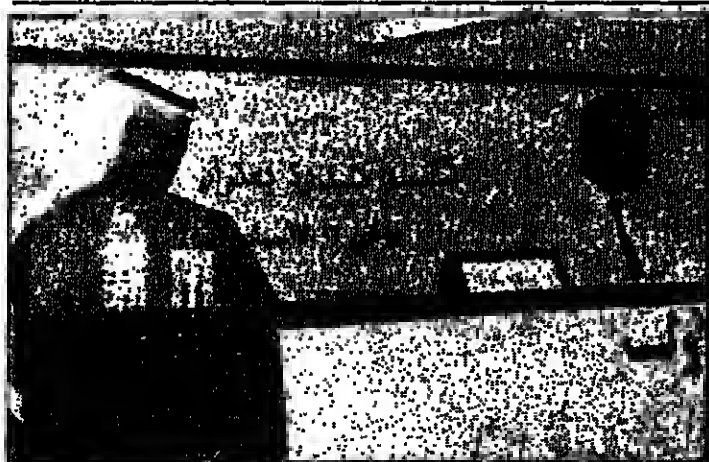
The conference is to discuss two main topics, first future challenges in aviation fields including what the Arab airlines will confront in Europe following its unification in 1992.

The second issue will tackle best methods to spread aviation culture and sciences among Arab youth to cope with the space age.

The conference is to be attended by various international and Arab aviation officials and Saudi, Syrian and French astronauts.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Civil Aviation Department said that 2214 flights in and out of Kuwait were recorded last December ... with a one per cent increase compared to the same month in 1988.

97,903 passengers came into Kuwait while 101,023 left the country in the same month while total air cargo amounted to 8,769,927 kgs aboard regular and extra flights.



Dr Abdu Rahman Al Asfoor (right) and captain Abdul Wahab Al Mijrin addressing the seminar.



Help fight drug menace call

Law not a trap for addicts, assure experts

By Diana Abou Haidar

Arab Times staff

DRUG addicts turned in by their families could avoid legal process and receive medical help, said Captain Abdul Wahab Al Mijrin.

The Narcotics Department officer was addressing more than a hundred and fifty women attending the first session of a seminar on youth and drugs organised by the Bayader Al Salam Women's Society. He explained that this law is not a trap for addicts, but an excellent way for a family to extend help to a loved one.

Captain Al Mijrin called on the audience to put emotions aside when dealing with drug problems. "Families can do half of our work for us. They should know what drugs look like and what tools are used," he said.

"If one of you sees a burnt spoon, a burnt piece of copper or a hollowed ballpoint pen in her son's room, she should be alerted to the possibility that he might be using drugs."

Dr Abdul Rahman Al Asfoor also alerted the audience to symptoms of substance abuse and they should watch for. "Changes in eating and sleeping habits, isolation, irritation and rapid loss of weight could be indications of addiction in the absence of other causes," said the manager of the Psychiatric Hospital who also spoke at the seminar.

Stages

Dr Al Asfoor stressed that drug addiction is a disease and addicts should receive treatment

at the special addiction centre at the hospital.

He explained that treatment consists of three stages. The first which is 3 weeks long, concentrates on treating withdrawal effects such as excessive perspiration, diarrhoea, accelerated heart beats and difficulty in breathing. The second is a period of psychological and social counselling which goes on for another three or four weeks. The third and longest stage is the rehabilitation stage.

Dr Al Asfoor said that this period of at least four months is essential for a complete recovery. He lamented that some families demand the release of their children before they complete the last stage, the thing that usually results in their going back to drugs.

Recovery

Dr Al Asfoor said that recovery rate at the centre is 15 per cent. "I know it might not sound like much, but we are working on improving it with new programmes," he said, adding that recovery rate in hospitals around the world does not exceed 30 per cent.

Success of treatment is affected by a large number of factors, explained Dr Asfoor. Among them how early help is sought, the type of substance abused, support from family and friends and completion of the treatment period.

Dr Al Asfoor said that 1,200 patients are being treated for substance abuse at the hospital. But he added that this number

does not really represent the size of the problem in the country because it is estimated that only 15 per cent of those who suffer from the problem seek professional help.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Al Issa, chancellor of the Kuwait Supreme Court of Appeals told a local daily that given the large quantities of drugs seized in Kuwait, the problem is a serious phenomenon that threatens the Kuwait society.

Death penalty

Speaking upon return from Cairo, where he delivered a lecture to prosecution trainees at the Egyptian Studies Centre, he said that the rapid growth of this menace, necessitates fierce confrontation.

The endorsement of the death penalty as a deterrent to check certain types of drug crimes is one good step on the road to eradicate this problem, the official said.

He added that the recently formed Anti-narcotic National Commission is currently involved in studies aimed at shedding light on all different aspects of the drug problem. These studies will provide the needed background to devise an effective rehabilitation programme to deal with the existing drug scene in the country, Issa said.

Training

He disclosed that the Justice Ministry had over the recent years been sending fresh prosecution attorneys on training and study scholarships to the

National Centre for Judicial Studies in Cairo.

As part of the protocol signed with the Justice Ministry in Egypt, established law men from Kuwait deliver lectures to Kuwaiti trainees at the centre and his lecture covered aspects of the drug problem, Issa said.

He added that the level of addiction varied from one country to another, though, the effects remained invariably the same. Drugs he said are greatly responsible for the drop in productivity and disintegration of family ties.

Collective

He also reviewed the efforts exerted at the international level to combat this epidemic — specially the anti-drugs programmes sponsored by the United Nations which stressed an all-out effort to eliminate the illicit drug trafficking.

He emphasised the collective attention of the Arab League in early 1989 which resulted in the establishment of an anti-narcotic bureau operating under the Arab League. This body pursued its responsibilities in fighting the spread of addiction, paralysing the drug trade and apprehending drug dealers.

He stressed the strong opposition of the Islamic Sharia to any activities or individual practices that brought the life of the individual to destruction, or led to the disintegration of the social set-up. He quoted verses from the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) sayings which clearly forbid the use of anything that crippled one's state of mind.

Legal Clinic

If you have a legal problem, labour or any other kind. Send your questions to Arab Times, Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer Khaled Taher replies to readers queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.

THANK you for answering my query in the Legal Clinic dated Dec 25. I have enclosed the photocopies of the contracts signed in 1983 and 1988. I would like to draw your attention to article 2 of the contract. I believe the company has violated this clause by obtaining signatures on a separate form.

An employee

ARTICLE 2 of the contract mentions that either party must advise in writing of his wish not to "renew the contract." You did not tell the company, in writing, that you don't want to continue employment, in other words "not to renew the contract." This means that the contract can be automatically renewed.

Secondly, in the separate form given to the company, dated 14/1/88, you clearly mention your willingness to continue employment and renew your contract. Now that the contract has been renewed for a two year period, with the same terms of the previous contract signed by both parties, you must complete the service period.

If you left employment before the expiry of the contract, it would mean that you are not completing the two year contract signed with the company. As I said before, if you leave employment, and give a notice, it would be considered as a resignation.

If you leave before the completion of the contract, the company has the right to claim compensation from you for breaking the contract.

1) I HAVE completed four years in a company, and every two years my contract renews me to get a new ticket. Recently, I signed my third contract. Since I came to Kuwait, I went on vacation only once, and now I am eligible for my second ticket, as per the contract. If I resign, will I get the ticket or not? Can I get indemnity for four years service?

2) If someone asks me to show my ID card on the street, can I ask him to see his identification papers first? If yes, what is the colour of the police ID card? Should be with the police uniform (cap) or not or should be in the civil uniform?

J.P.A.

AS you have not completed five years service and intend to resign, you don't have the right to claim any benefits, according to article 56 of the private sector labour law.

But you have the right to claim the air ticket every two years, if this has been stated in the contract. You can claim the air ticket to the country of origin.

2. Yes, you can ask to see the identity card. If it is not in police uniform, you must ask him for the identity card. Mostly, police ID cards carry a policeman's photograph in uniform; the cards also mention the profession. If the policeman is in civilian clothes, his profession will be mentioned on the ID card, which can be read by you to identify him. The colour of the ID card does not matter, the important factor is whether or not the profession has been mentioned.

I AM an Indian working as a servant since 1983. I am not working for the same employer who recruited me. My employer

tried to change my papers from that of a house servant to a driver, but he could not because of some legal problems. My employer has asked me to make the necessary changes while returning from vacation. I have got permission to go home for two months.

1. Can I get my visa before I leave the country? My residence is valid for one more year.

2. If I get my new visa, do I have to go for medical check-up again even though I have my civil card?

3. Is there any way to get a medical certificate in Kuwait to avoid any possible delay? I will have to spend at least 20 days in Bombay from my 60 month leave.

R.B. Shaw

1. YOU can cancel your present residence to leave the country and ask your employer to apply for a new visa from Social Affairs Ministry. If you get the visa, you can proceed on vacation and return within three months. Normally, such visas are valid for a period of three months period within which a person must enter the country. You'll, however, have to complete the formalities in your home country to enter Kuwait from the three months period.

2. As a new immigrant, you'll have to undergo medical tests. However, if you have the papers from the previous medical checkup, they might be useful to speed up the procedure. If you have a civil card, and have a photocopy, it will be easier to get a fresh one after completing visa formalities.

3. It is possible to get a medical certificate from any private clinic here before departure.

IF A person resigns from the services of a private company: a) can the company cancel the balance or accumulated leave or should it pay for it, in addition to other dues? Or will the employee be asked to avail of the balance leave? How can an employee safeguard against losing the balance leave if he or she does not utilise it before resigning from the job?

AD

THE balance or accumulated leave will not be cancelled, because it is a part of an employee's rights; and even if you haven't utilised the balance leave. According to Article 55 of the end of contract indemnity, and the 15 days notice, the balance payment must be paid.

Other rights such as delayed salary, and balance payment, are also part of the rights of employees which can be claimed. According to the labour law, you have the right to take leave, but in agreement with the employer so that your going on holiday does not affect work at the place of employment. An employer can organise the duration of leave, but if you don't want to take leave, it is up to the employee.

I AM an employee of a private company since Nov 1983. Between 1983 to 1988, I was paid twice my daily wages, in addition to my normal salary, on official holidays. However, since Jan 1989, I have been paid only single daily wages plus my normal

salary. Please advise me about my entitlements and the procedure for claims, if any.

2. Whenever I proceed on annual leave, the payment for the leave period is calculated by dividing my salary by 30 days instead of 26 days. Also, Fridays are included in the leave period.

An employee

YOU have the right to claim payment on public holidays. Article 55 of the labour law says that a labourer is entitled to one full day rest per week; if he works on his rest day, a labourer is entitled to normal wages plus at least 50 per cent of the wages. Article 36 stipulates that a labourer is entitled to receive double wages if he works on an official holiday, which are Hijri New Year (one day); Eid Al Fitr (two days); Eid Al Adha (two days); Holy Prophet's (PBUH) birthday (one day) and National Day (one day).

On official holidays, a labourer is entitled to double wages; i.e. one plus one.

You can also claim overtime. If you have not been paid, it means the employer is breaking the labour law and you can claim it from the company, asking for all the rights.

For monthly wage earners, annual leave must be paid by 26 days and by 30 days because Fridays or the weekly rest days are unpaid. The employer must calculate annual leave by 26 days.

MY son, who is 19 years old, is studying in India. He has a valid residence until June 1991. Please be kind enough to inform me if he can come to Kuwait in April this year in his residence. He left Kuwait on Nov 3, 1989.

T.U. Shenoy

IF he has a valid residence permit and left on Nov 3, 1989, he would have stayed outside Kuwait for under six months. If he has not stayed outside the country for more than six months, he can enter Kuwait on the valid residence permit and there would be no problem.

After the age of 18, you must make an application for a student visa, giving the authorities attested copies of enrollment and other documents; if such an application is refused, according to rules, you can obtain a visit visa for him to come here on holidays.

I HAVE been working with a company for one year. Shortly, I'll deliver my baby. My employer refuses to give me 70 days maternity leave. And he told me, I can take only 40 days. Do I have the right to link my annual vacation to maternity leave?

Mrs J.

ARTICLE 25 says that a pregnant woman has the right to get a maximum 30 days before confinement and 40 days after confinement with full pay. You have the right to take maternity leave and an employer cannot refuse such a request.

However, you cannot link the annual vacation with the maternity leave. If you take maternity leave, the annual vacation is automatically cancelled.

AWU to meet in Baghdad

KUWAIT will participate in the meetings of the permanent bureau of the Arab Women Union which will be held in the Iraqi capital in the period between 14-17 of this month.

President of the socio-cultural women society Lulwa Al Qitami will head Kuwait's delegation which will also include Saad Tararwah who is a member of the society.

Qitami told Kuna that the meeting will focus on the annual report which will discuss activities of last year in addition to setting next year's budget.

A report on the effect of population policies on Arab women prepared by the general secretariat of the union will be discussed in a panel of experts, she said.

The meeting will also discuss another report on Arab women strategies prepared by a committee affiliated with the union, she noted.



Training course

UNDER the auspices of Director-General of Police College, Brigadier Khaled Mohammed Al Munayes stressed the importance of human relations between the security men and the public saying that the good liaison between the two parties could play a significant role towards the eradication of crimes. The training course, to last five weeks, will be attended by 27 officers with one each from the Ministry of Defence, Oman and three from Yemen Arab Republic.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Assistant Director-General at the Police College Colonel Ali Abdullah, the Acting Director of Police Officers Training Institute Lieutenant Colonel Dr Jawad



Turkish soldiers stand guard near the lake of newly built Ataturk dam in southern Turkey as a ceremony was held for hallowing the flow of Euphrates water into Syria and Iraq. Turkey cut the water to fill the reservoir behind the dam for 30 days. (Reuters wirephoto)

Reduction of Euphrates flow

Iraq warns Turkey

ANKARA, Jan 14. (Agencies): Iraq's oil minister, bearing a message from President Saddam Hussein, came here today for discussions over Turkey's reduction of Euphrates riverflow toward Syria and Iraq.

The newspaper of Iraq's ruling Baath Socialist Party today warned that relations between the neighbouring could suffer if Turkey does not let the water flow fully.

The minister, Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi, declined to tell reporters the contents of the message from the Iraqi leader for Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

The Iraqi delegation was met at Ankara's Esenboga airport by State Minister Kamuran Inan. Al Chalabi said his special mission would include discussions with Ozal and other Turkish officials of the move by Turkey to fill up a dam on the Euphrates river, whose flow reached Syria and Iraq.

Ozal yesterday pushed a button cutting the flow so that Turkey could fill up the giant Ataturk hydroelectric dam in southeastern Turkey.

"We will never use water from rivers as a means of

threat. I want everybody to know this," Ozal said at a ceremony yesterday at the dam outside Bozova, southeast of Ankara.

Iraq sent its Deputy Foreign Minister, Nizar Hamdoun, to Turkey last month to try to get the reduction in flow shortened from one month to two weeks. Turkey refused, saying a month of river damming was needed.

Hamdoun said the monthlong reduction in water would damage Iraqi agriculture.

Turks maintain that since November they have released extra water to Syria and Iraq for storage in reservoirs to ride out the shortfall.

Most of the water flow from tributaries below the new dam is reported to have been held in Syria, where dams are low because of drought last year, instead of being passed on to Iraq where dams were already full.

Iraq held a rare special session of its top political leadership last week to discuss the subject. Abdul Sattar Salman, undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, is also a member of the Iraqi mission to Ankara.

East wants good ties with Arabs and Israel

DAMASCUS, Jan 14. (Reuters): East European countries want to stay on good terms with Syria and other Arab states despite moves to improve ties with Israel, diplomats say.

But the need to reform their own economies may make them less ready to offer credit or enter barter deals with Syria.

And the Soviet Union, while still considering Damascus its main Arab ally, has made clear it does not accept President Hafez Al Assad's aim of military "strategic parity" with Israel.

"When we resumed relations with Israel, it was not accepted by the Arab world with full happiness," Hungarian

Ambassador Andor Egyed told Reuters. "There was a 'gentleman's reaction' from Syria, which expressed regret but said Hungary was independent and could establish relations with anyone."

Egyed said Hungary had put relations with Syria on a basis of "mutual benefit" as economic conditions worsened at home.

"Now we have to concentrate our material possibilities on economic reconstruction in Hungary. For the moment we can't invest here or offer credit," he added.

But views on the central Middle East issue had not changed. Hungary's position is that Israel must accept a peaceful, international, political

solution of the Palestinian question, including the Palestinian right to self-determination and an independent state."

Egyed said. "We also say that the Arab side needs to approve Israel's right to exist."

In September Hungary became the first East European country to renew diplomatic relations with Israel, severed since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Czechoslovakia and Poland have both said they plan to restore relations.

Romania, the only East European country not to cut ties with Israel, says it wants to keep good ties with the Arab world.

"After normalising its internal structure, Romania will take steps to establish new relations with Arab countries," said a Romanian diplomat, who doubted there would be major changes.

East German sources said a Foreign Ministry delegation would visit Damascus soon to explain changes in East Germany and their effect on relations with Syria and the Arab world.

Syria, with its own brand of Baath Party socialism, has long had close economic and military ties with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In 1986 almost half Syria's exports went to the socialist bloc.

UN team ignores violations: rebels

ISLAMABAD, Jan 14. (AP):

Afghan rebels yesterday accused a UN team monitoring a 21-month-old peace accord of ignoring violations committed by the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

On Thursday the UN Security Council decided to keep its 50-member team in Afghanistan and Pakistan two months beyond its Jan 15 deadline.

The United Nations Good Offices Mission in Pakistan and Afghanistan, or Ungomap, was established to check violations of an April 14, 1988 agreement providing for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The last Soviet troops left in February, 1989.

The UN team is split between Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan, where the rebels are based, and investigates complaints lodged by the two governments.

"Ungomap doesn't have any importance to the mujahideen except to create trouble for us," said Abdul Rahim, spokesman of a rebel news agency.

The rebels, backed by the United States, fought the Red Army to a stalemate and refuse to lay down their arms until they topple Kabul's ruling Marxists.

"What else have they (Ungomap) done?" Rahim asked. "They have only watched the mujahideen not the Russians."

The United States annually sends weapons worth about \$500 million to the rebels through Pakistan.

The Kremlin reportedly sends \$300 million worth of weapons and humanitarian assistance to the Kabul government every month.

Rahim said Ungomap created supply problems for rebel fighters when they tried unsuccessfully to capture the eastern city of Jalalabad last March.

The month-long battle was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting in the war.

"Right in the middle of the fighting they established posts and didn't allow mujahideen supplies inside Afghanistan," forcing rebels to use more circuitous and time-consuming routes, Rahim said.

While the accord brokered by the UN doesn't stop Moscow and Washington from arming their respective allies, it does warn against interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The agreement was signed by Pakistan and Afghanistan and guaranteed by Moscow and Washington.

Pakistan claims that since the pact was signed the Kabul government has invaded its airspace, shelled its territory, fired medium-range missiles deep inside the country and terrorized its cities with bomb explosions.

The latest accusation was made on Wednesday when a missile slammed into a field near Pakistan's largest complex of ordnance factories.

Rafsanjani to visit Moscow

KUWAIT, Jan 14. (Kuna): Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani will pay a second visit to Moscow later this month, a Kuwaiti daily quoted well informed source as saying today.

The unidentified source told Al Qabas that Rafsanjani will hold talks with Soviet officials on means of calming the situation in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan because Iran is afraid that violence would spread to the Iranian part of Azerbaijan.

Human rights abused in Egypt under Badr

Moussa hints at tough action against fundamentalists

CAIRO, Jan 14. (AP): Torture of political prisoners was on the rise and human rights were abused during 1989 when sacked interior minister Zaki Badr was in power, a report by the Egyptian organisation for human rights claims.

The report demanded an independent inquiry into its claims of torture and asked President Hosni Mubarak to restate Egypt's commitments to human rights.

The organisation's report said that those responsible for the alleged torture and abuses should be immediately tried by a criminal court.

"But if (their) call to abide by God is disciplined and does not breach security, so be it. But if security is shaken, we will not allow it," he added.

Moussa's words were nevertheless milder than his predecessor's who called fundamentalists dogs and pigs.

The Egyptian organisation for human rights said in a 21-page report issued last week that use of torture in Egypt had become widespread.

"The use of torture in Egypt has become widespread to the point that it now appears to be a matter of policy of Egyptian security forces."

"In 1989, there was a marked increase in the use of torture, not only to members of political trends and groups suspected of opposing the government, but to ordinary citizens with no political affiliation or interest," the report said.

It said methods of torture from



Zaki Badr

"severe beating, slaps, punches, kicks, (hitting with) rifle butts, leather belts, hoses, bamboo sticks and electric batons. In some cases the beat was brought back into use to whip and torture detainees."

It said electric shocks were also used. It said at least one detainee, Makhlof Abdulla Ahmed, died

while in police custody on Jan 6, 1989 after he was tortured.

The top domestic security official who was sworn in on Friday said he believed democratic dialogue was the best way to deal with issues, clearly steering away from his predecessor's renowned iron-fisted security operations.

Mubarak fired Badr after a public row erupted when the minister reportedly insulted fellow cabinet members, opposition parties, journalists and others. The name-calling tirades were reported by two opposition newspapers earlier this week.

The daily opposition Al Wafd said today that Badr's dismissal triggered widespread rejoicing in the Egyptian countryside where the Interior Ministry celebrated when they heard the news, with one officer sacrificing two sheep and distributing their meat to poor people in a typically Arab

way of rejoicing. Mubarak's dismissal of Badr has also been applauded in both state-owned and opposition newspapers.

An emergency law has been in effect since the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat by Muslim fundamentalists. Opposition parties have repeatedly demanded that the emergency law be revoked. The new interior minister has said that the emergency law was used mainly against drug dealers and those who were subverting the national economy.

"We work under the law, and if we do otherwise, we would not be security men," Moussa said.

Badr had been accused of ignoring court rulings to free people detained under the emergency law. Moussa vowed that the Interior Ministry would carry out any court order releases.

League bid to shore up Lebanon

ALGIERS, Jan 14. (Reuters): Arab mediators seeking to end 14 years of civil war in Lebanon will meet in Algiers tomorrow, the Algerian Foreign Ministry said in a statement yesterday.

The peace committee comprises the foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia. The three countries were given a mandate by the Arab League last May to try to permanently halt the bloodletting in Lebanon.

In Beirut, the committee's envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim held talks with President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Selim Hoss and House Speaker Hussein Hussein yesterday.

"I returned to Beirut to meet with President Hrawi and other officials, to listen to their views and to know what the committee and the Arab states could do to help Lebanon," local newspapers quoted him as saying.

Ibrahim brokered a ceasefire last September to end fierce fighting in Lebanon and the committee sponsored a peace pact signed by Lebanese deputies and ratified by Parliament.

The pact was rejected by defiant General Michel Aoun, who refuses to submit to Hrawi's authority. Aoun, who commands 15,000 mainly Christian troops, is holding out in the country's Christian enclave.

The wife of murdered President Rene Muawad said today all those who rejected the Taif peace pact shared responsibility in killing her husband.

"Rene Muawad is the martyr of reconciliation. He who opposes this march and tries to obstruct its execution bears a big share of responsibility in the assassination," said Nayla Muawad at a memorial service marking the 40th day on her husband's death.

"It does not make any difference whether this responsibility is political, national or criminal," she said. Lebanese officials and foreign ambassadors, including Arab League envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim, attended the Mass at the Saint John Church in Muawad's hometown in the northern village of Zghorta.

The bereaved wife, clad in black, vowed to follow the political path of her husband even if it meant martyrdom.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Police arrest fundamentalists: Police have arrested numerous close associates of Moroccan Islamic Fundamentalists leader Abd Assalam Yassine, including his son-in-law, a spokesman for Yassine said on Sunday.

He said Abdullah Shihani, husband of Yassine's daughter Nadia, was arrested on Saturday. Others were recently detained in several parts of the country, some when they tried to visit Yassine at his home in Sale near Rabat. (Reuters)

De Beauce in Sanaa: The French Minister for International Cultural Relations Thierry de Beauce arrived in Sanaa on Saturday and held talks with North Yemeni officials on co-operation between the two countries, radio Sanaa said.

De Beauce met North Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Mohamed Said Al Attar and discussed economic and trade co-operation between the two countries. (Reuters)

Rumie hopes to aid: The Archbishop of Canterbury arrived in Addis Ababa on Sunday and said he wanted to help speed up aid for millions of people facing starvation in northern Ethiopia.

"Here is a real human need — at the same time, it is a country divided by warfare. I want to see what I can do," Robert Rumie said after being greeted by his host, Ethiopian orthodox patriarch Abune Merkorios. (Reuters)

Iran to mark 11th: Iranians will voice their support for President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in mass marches marking the 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution next month, the Iranian News Agency Irna said on Sunday.

It said Rafsanjani, whose policies have been criticised by hardliners, would broadcast a message to the nation on February 1, anniversary of the day on which the late Ayatollah Khomeini returned to Tehran from exile in Paris. (Reuters)

Algerian students demonstrate: Thousands of students demonstrated in the western Algerian city of Oran on Sunday in protest at alleged violence by the security forces, witnesses said.

They said the students called for disciplinary action against senior officials who ordered police and special anti-riot squads to break up a month-old blockade of the main airport approach road. (Reuters)



Arafat in Cairo

Egyptian President Mubarak (right) meets PLO leader Yasser Arafat at the presidential palace in Cairo. (Reuters wirephoto)

UN invitation for talks: The leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities in divided Cyprus have been invited by the UN secretary-general to resume stalled negotiations for a federal solution in New York next month, UN spokesman Charles Gaulkin confirmed Sunday.

He said the invitation by Javier Perez de Cuellar stipulates that the talks should start under his sponsorship on Feb 12 and continue on an intensive, continuous basis for two weeks. (AP)

21 rebels killed in fighting: Army troops killed 21 rebels and destroyed several of the insurgents' camps in southern Kordofan region earlier this week, a newspaper reported today.

Assad, Mubarak to meet: A leading British newspaper reported Sunday that "secret preparations" were being made for a summit meeting between the presidents of Egypt and Syria, with "far-reaching implications for peace prospects in the Middle East."

The Sunday Times said that final arrangements have yet to be made, but "Cairo sources" said the meeting between Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Hafez Assad of Syria may take place as early as next weekend. (Kuna)

500,000 people are at risk of starvation in southern Sudan

WASHINGTON, Jan 14. (UPI): US Agency for International Development officials believe as many as 500,000 people are at risk of starvation in southern Sudan, victims of political decisions rather than a shortage of food.

In an interview this week, Andrew Natsios, director of AID's office of foreign disaster assistance, estimated the situation will turn critical in about one month and said people already are dying in scattered areas.

"We are very concerned. It is clear that if food supplies don't go through, there are going to be a large number of innocent people who will starve," Natsios said.

US officials said food is available but the new Islamic revolutionary government of Sudan has stopped relief flights and truck convoys because it believes the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army rebels will benefit from the food.

The government is not permitting the shipment of food supplies to refugee camps, the officials said.

A report said one train, loaded with 1,500 tons of grain, has been waiting since Sept 10 in line behind a military train on a single-track rail line.

Government officials will not permit the relief train to move to the area where the

refugees are concentrated in the southern part of Sudan until the military train moves, the report said.

US officials call the blockade a transparent government ruse to halt the relief operations, even though as many as 500,000 people in that part of Sudan are at risk of dying of starvation.

Ironically, the US government has lost its main source of political leverage — the ability to deliver or to cut off economic and military assistance to Sudan — because the Sudanese government has fallen behind on its loan repayments to the United States.

Jordan warns against cross border attacks

AMMAN, Jan 14. (Reuters): Jordan's Prime Minister Mudar Badran said yesterday his country would not tolerate any infiltration attempts into neighbouring states through its frontiers.

Infiltrators would be shot, he said. He told Parliament's weekly session that the Jordanian Army shot dead a man identified as Walid Soumren on Dec 25 as he tried to cross illegally into Israel from northern Jordan.

He said border guards shot Soumren after he ignored orders to stop advancing towards the Israeli side of the border fence.

"If any such infiltration attempt is repeated, the army will do the same because there are army monitoring positions on the border beyond which no one is allowed to cross," he said.

Several infiltration attempts last week fuelled tension across Jordan's usually quiet border with Israel despite the official state of war existing between the two countries.

Badran made this remarks in response to a question by Sheikh Abdul Mu'neem Abu Zant, one of the 22-member Muslim Brotherhood deputies, who told the house Soumren's family wanted to know why their son was shot dead.

Israel said last week its troops killed a Jordanian soldier in a gunbattle after he crossed the border in the northern area of Hamat Gader. Jordan said a conscript based in the area of the shooting had been missing with his rifle.

There were three other shooting incidents near the same area on Thursday and Friday.

Algiers finance workers on strike

ALGIERS, Jan 14. (AP): Thousands of tax collectors, rent agents and treasury employees shut down the government's finance sector yesterday to force reform in rigid socialist employment laws.

The strike could starve the government of revenue and threaten the fragile economy that President Chadli Benjedid has struggled to wean from three decades of socialism toward freer markets.

Mohamed Cheikhi, head of the National Treasury Union,

vowed the strikers would stay off the job until Benjedid answer year-old demands for merit-based wage increases.

The strikers also seek better work training and freer job transfers within the monolithic Ministry of the Economy headed by Ghazi Hidouci, a Benjedid ally from the reform wing of (FLN).

The work stoppage hit all 48 departments of the North African country of 25 million people as the work week began yesterday despite last minute lobbying by local officials.

Army raids West Bank villages

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 14. (Agencies): Soldiers arrested dozens of Palestinians yesterday during raids on four villages in a sweeping army operation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, an army spokesman said.

No one was injured in the operation, in which the army confiscated "hostile material and equipment" belonging to Palestinian activists and arrested dozens of Palestinians wanted for allegedly carrying out hostile activity against Israel, the spokesman said.

The army clamped curfews on the villages of Yatta, Rama, Abata, and Jaba before making the raids, Palestinian sources said.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, soldiers shot rubber and plastic bullets at Palestinians demonstrating against the Israeli occupation, injuring 14, Palestinian sources said.

Soldiers and Palestinians clashed in Rafah, Jabalya, and Khan Yunis refugee camps, the sources said. The army reported no clashes or injuries in the Gaza Strip.

In Gaza, demonstrations broke out after soldiers arrested a 16-year-old boy in the crowded main square of the city, Palestinian sources said.

The army maintained a curfew begun earlier in the week on the West Bank village of Abud.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Gulf power show off to busy start

DUBAI, Jan. 14: Middle East Electricity '90 — the premier power industry showcase in the Gulf — opened its doors in Dubai yesterday and immediately attracted the attention of buyers from throughout the Middle East.

Within hours of the show opening exhibitors were dealing with a number of serious business enquiries.

Gulf Metal Craft, which set up in Dubai's Jebel Ali Free Zone only two months ago, received a substantial enquiry from a switchgear manufacturer in the UAE and another to supply service cabinets to Doha, while the Saudi Transformers Company reported serious interest from Oman.

The fact that companies are already receiving enquiries of this nature underlines the market potential from the power industry in the Middle East, said Virginia Kern.

"The upturn in the industry is substantial and exhibitors are hoping the show will help them clinch major deals."

After the opening by Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE Minister of Finance and Industry, Hameed Nassar Al Owais, the UAE Minister of Electricity and Water, said the international flavour of the show reflected Dubai's increasing role as the trading centre of the Middle East.

"The fact that 122 companies from 21 different countries are taking part in the exhibition emphasises the importance of this year's show," he added.

The show is being used as a launch pad for new technology products. They include a revolutionary battery, pioneered by Alcad of the UK, which requires no topping up and no maintenance.

US stocks may drop further

NEW YORK, Jan. 14, (Reuters): US shares are likely to resume Friday's sharp decline fuelled by concern about inflationary forces in the economy when stock markets reopen tomorrow, according to Wall Street analysts.

The Dow Jones average of leading industrial stocks fell 71 points on Friday to 2,689, equivalent to a 2.6 per cent fall. Traders pointed to a higher-than-expected 0.7 per cent rise in US producer prices, announced on Friday, and said sharp drops in Tokyo and London stocks also undermined confidence.

Peter Canelo, strategist at Bee, Stearns and Co., said the decline in Tokyo, the world's biggest stock market, was especially unnerving. "The potential for further downside in that market could affect equity markets around the world," he said.

But he said an important factor that could contain further weakness in US stocks is the recent steadiness in the dollar against the yen. "It's a critical requirement for maintaining some stability in our market," he said.

Monte Gordon, research director at Dreyfus Corp., said Friday's news on producer prices showed "inflation has a greater degree of persistence than investors had assumed."

Move to stop artificial price rise

KUWAIT, Jan. 14, (Kuna): Kuwait's Union of Consumer Societies today emphasised that it would not permit any unilateral or artificial increase in current prices of consumer goods.

Answering apprehensions floated lately about consumer prices would be jacked up following the recent salary raise ordered by HH the Amir, the union explained in a statement that meeting of representatives of concerned ministries, including commerce and industry, social affairs and labour and the union was held today to discuss prices of goods offered by consumer societies.

All necessary measures to protect citizens against uncalculated price increases had been taken, the statement assured, pointing out participants wanted to stress determination not to allow any artificial or unilateral increase in prices of commodities sold by the societies or any of their branches.

The union promised that tangible and positive effects of decisions adopted by the meeting would be felt soon through the continuous supervision and monitoring to be undertaken by the concerned authorities.

Dhaka continues to depend heavily on foreign aid

Aid to poor nations inadequate: Ershad

DHAKA, Jan. 14, (Reuters): Bangladesh President Hosain Mohammad Ershad said inadequate aid from developed nations could threaten world peace.

"An augmented flow of resources would stimulate growth of the low income countries. But, unfortunately, development assistance from the industrialised nations has not reached the desired level," he told an economic seminar yesterday.

"Global peace and stability would face peril if the rich countries persistently ignored the pressing demand for

balanced development of the world," the official BSS news agency quoted Ershad as saying.

Nearly 90 per cent of Bangladesh's annual development programme depends on foreign assistance. The South Asian nation prone to cyclones and flooding also receives hundreds of millions of dollars in disaster aid every year.

The three-day seminar, organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, is being attended by delegates from the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and various

United Nations agencies.

Bangladesh remains as dependent as ever on foreign assistance and self-reliance is a distant dream after 18 years of independence, a leading economist said today.

"Though reduction in the magnitude of external dependence through generation of domestic savings has been the professed objective of successive political regimes in Bangladesh, the attainment of even a moderate degree of self-reliance remains a distant dream," Sultan Hafeez Rahman told the seminar.

He said the country now made little contribution to formulation of its own fundamental economic policies.

Its current adjustment programme, designed to restore the economy, "could even be inconsistent with long-run policy objectives and impair the country's strategic development options," he added. "This is a price Bangladesh pays for excessive dependence on foreign aid."

Bangladesh, a poor South Asian nation with an annual per capita income of only \$160, has over \$9 billion of foreign debt.

Debt servicing cost it 30.9 per cent of its export earnings in 1988-89 compared with 19.8 per cent in 1982-83, according to government statistics.

Bangladesh, with a population of about 110 million crammed into an area of 144,000 sq. km (56,000 square miles), receives annual economic aid of around \$2 billion to finance its development programmes.

In the early 1980s it embarked on a new economic policy known as the adjustment programme after experiencing a sharp decline in its economy and in aid flow.

The adjustment package included measures for mobilisation of domestic savings and reduction of public expenditure by phasing out subsidies and slashing public investment.

But a recent report from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) said the policy had failed to improve conditions for some of the poorest people of the world.

"The adjustment programme has contributed very little to furthering poverty alleviation and attaining human resources development targets," the report said.

US firms step up foreign investment

'Europe is a dynamic growth area'

NEW YORK, Jan. 14, (Reuters): Amid the clamour at home about foreign investors buying up America, a gradual and steady rise in US investment overseas is passing almost unnoticed.

Economists say US firms are hoisting foreign investment, particularly in Europe, where the growth opportunities — helped by East bloc reforms and the approach of a vast single European Economic Community market after 1992 — look too good to miss.

"Europe is a dynamic growth area," said James Greene, a consultant for the Conference Board, a private business group.

Ford Motor Co's acquisition of Britain's Jaguar Plc and General Motors Corp's purchase of a 50 per cent stake in Saab-Scania of Sweden late last year are just "the tip of the iceberg," said Stephen Cooney, an international investment director at the National Association of Manufacturers.

Economists say the accelerated rise of US investment abroad should calm some of the concerns about increasing foreign ownership of American assets.

The concerns reached fever-pitch late last year when Japan's Mitsubishi Estate Co. acquired a controlling stake in New York City's landmark Rockefeller Centre.

In 1989, US companies worked out plans to establish 220 manufacturing projects overseas, up from 180 projects in 1988, Greene said. He added that he expects the rising trend to continue for four to five years.

US direct investment abroad rose \$32 billion in the first nine months of 1989 to \$359 billion, after rising by 18.9 billion in all of 1988, according to Commerce Department estimates.

In the same period, foreign direct investment in the United States grew faster, as it did for most of the decade. Foreign

investment rose by \$44 billion to \$37 billion after surging 58 billion in 1988.

Economists attribute the heavy investment flows both in and out of the United States to the globalisation of the manufacturing and other industries.

Commerce Department economists said US companies plan to spend \$48.9 billion for plant and equipment at their overseas affiliates, up from 42.6 billion in 1988. Their outlays are expected to rise further in 1990, to \$49.9 billion.

"The underlying trend is definitely up," although the figures are volatile, reflecting fluctuating exchange rates and accounting factors, said the manufacturers' association's Conney.

In the past, the driving force behind US investment abroad was the cheap foreign labour, said William Archey, an international economist at the US Chamber of Commerce. But that is no longer the case. "The cost of

labour is no longer a factor for overseas investment," he said.

The main reason why US companies want to invest overseas now is to manufacture goods for foreign markets at a competitive cost, even if the start-up expenses are high.

"American companies will allocate more dollars abroad," as some 200 American manufacturers have enough cash to make the expensive overseas investment," Greene said.

As US firms prepare to increase their presence in big markets in Europe and Asia, Japan's barriers to foreign investment are coming under renewed criticism.

"Japan is a big market, but we cannot invest there," said Archey. He said there were two kinds of obstacles: unique Japanese business practices, such as a multi-layered distribution system, which discriminate against outsiders.

Demand for oil will increase

Detente will boost trade between East and West

RIYADH, Jan. 14, (Kuna): World detente between East and West, and the easing of tensions in Eastern Europe's policies and efforts to unify West Europe economically by the end of 1992, could prompt a chain of changes in the rest of the world and lead to negative and positive aspects for the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council, said a senior official here today.

In an article published by the Jeddah-based Okaz newspaper at the weekend, Dr Abdullah Al Quwaiz, the GCC assistant secretary general for economic affairs said international detente would boost trade between the East and the West, resulting, in turn, in an increase in demand for oil and help in promoting West European investments in East European states.

Trade restrictions between the East and the West would be more flexible, specially for the vital products which are also produced by the GCC states such as aluminium, petrochemicals and refined oil products, where competition is expected

to be tough. Dr Al Quwaiz said US and European aid would be re-directed to East Europe, depriving the developing nations of this aid, specially the Arab and African states. "And this thing would place a new burden on the shoulders of the GCC countries," he added.

Dr Al Quwaiz said this European zeal could make the European countries even pressure on the international lending institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to increase their loans to East European countries and the GCC countries would find themselves obliged to approve these loans.

Dr Al Quwaiz said the Zionist lobby, which has been spearheading the pressure on Eastern Europe, would diminish and give the green signal to Western banks, which are dealing with the GCC countries, to open the tap of loans to the Eastern bloc countries.

Dr Al Quwaiz said the unity of Europe and its

support to Eastern Europe would boost the production process and thus increase the demand for oil, gas, aluminium and petrochemicals, which constitutes the main products of the GCC states yet this new detente would pave the way before the Soviet Union and the Eastern European states to enter the market as powerful competitors.

At the same time, the expansion of the European market would increase its attraction of investments and improve revenues and this could benefit the current GCC investments in Europe but in turn would lead to reverse trend to investments in the GCC countries, Dr Al Quwaiz said.

Changes of the GCC products selling to the EEC depends on certain factors, significantly the ability of the two sides to reach an agreement, he added. These changes, Al Quwaiz said, would create an impact on all regional federations and would create new scopes for West European investments in Eastern Europe.

Joint operation with HBU

ABC announces new bank

AMMAN, Jordan, Jan. 14, (AP): The Arab Banking Corporation launched its first commercial branch in the Arab world today in a joint operation with the Housing Bank of Jordan.

"We wanted to build a good international foundation before delving into the Middle Eastern market," said Abdullah Al Saudi, an executive director of the Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corp. during a news conference.

The new Jordan Arab Banking Corporation opened its first office in Amman today with 25 employees loaned from the Housing Bank and a capital of 10 million dinars (\$15.3 million).

ABC owns 60 per cent of the capital of the new bank, with the rest held by the Housing Bank and shareholders of the now-dissolved Jordanian Banknotes Company.

ABC was founded in 1980 by the Finance Ministry of Kuwait, Libya's Central Bank and the Investment Company of Abu Dhabi. It operates in the Far East, North and South

America and Europe with assets Saudi put at about \$20 billion.

"We are going into our second phase of operation which means opening branches in the Arab world," Al Saudi said.

He said ABC has contacted two other Arab countries about opening offices, but declined to name them.

He said Jordan was an "open market for foreign investment" and denied the company had opened its first regional office here to help the kingdom's ailing economy.

"We are a business company and out of our wish to launch our Middle East operation, Jordan seemed the ideal starting point."

Some banking experts have maintained that Jordan already has too many banks, and have urged mergers between existing operations. But Saudi said that situation exists in almost all countries and "what is important is the variety of services a bank can offer."

Investcorp profit soars

BAHRAIN, Jan. 14, (Reuters): The Arabian Investment Banking Corporation (Investcorp) said today its 1989 net profit rose by 12 per cent to a record \$51.8 million.

The Bahrain-based bank, which has shareholders in six Gulf Arab states, said in a statement that earnings grew for the seventh successive year.

Operating income rose to \$77.3 million in 1989 from 67.8 million in 1988, while assets grew to \$813.9 million from 745.2 million.

The bank channels private investment into Western companies. It announced a profit of \$46.2 million in 1988.

Arab Fund finances

Mideast power links

KUWAIT, Jan. 14, (Reuters): The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development said today it had agreed to help finance a study on linking the power grids of five Middle Eastern countries. In a statement to the Kuwaiti News Agency Kuna, the Kuwait-based Islamic Development Bank would finance the study covering Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Turkey.

The statement did not give a time frame nor say how much the loan was worth. The Arab Fund, jointly owned by all Arab governments, has financed other studies on linking the Algerian, Tunisian and Moroccan grids, the Egyptian and Jordanian grids, and the North and South Yemeni grids.

The statement said it was preparing another study on tying 13 Arab countries east of the Suez Canal into one power network.

Riyal deposits

NICOSIA, Jan. 14, (Reuters): Saudi riyal interbank deposits remained steady in a typically quiet market.

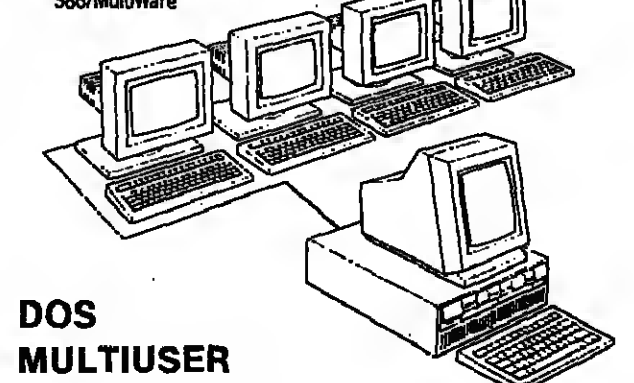
Dealers only reported business in the overnight, which dealt at seven per cent. There were no quotes for other short-dated funds due to slack demand.

The one- to three-month maturities were indicated unchanged at 8-1/16, 7-7/8 per cent, six-months at 8-1/8, eight and one year at 8-1/4, eight.

The spot riyal was also steady at 3.7497/02 to the dollar.

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Chairman of conglomerate writes best selling book on work

SEOUL, Jan. 14, (AP): The runaway best seller in Korean bookstores is written by the founder of one of the country's largest conglomerates, as a successful workaholic who says he sometimes shaves and eats breakfast in his car to save time.

Kim Woo-Chung, chairman and founder of Daewoo Group, says he wrote the book to tell young people how to find inspiration and direction in life.

His advice is direct and simple, as the suggested title for the English version suggests: "Work" — with three exclamation marks for emphasis.

South Korea is a country where the drive to succeed and make money is a national passion, and Kim's position as head of a conglomerate with 1988 sales of \$17.2 billion hasn't hurt his credibility as an author.

"Nothing comes free in this life and nothing is accidental," he writes. "The more you dig, the deeper the hole. And the deeper the hole the more water from the well. That's what it's all about."

More than 900,000 copies of "It's a big world and there's lots to be done," as the Korean title reads, have been published since it came out last August, and by January the book was in its 89th

printing. South Korea's largest bookstore named it one of the five best-sellers of the decade.

The 211-page paperback sells for \$4.50 and features 39 essays with pithy fatherly advice on school, working women, choice of jobs, relationships and making money.

Not everyone in South Korea agrees that workers should drive themselves mercilessly toward success. Many younger Koreans, who have grown up with more affluence than their parents, are demanding shorter hours and more pay. The average work week is now 44 to 48 hours.

But President Roh Tae-Woo has said that if work slackens the economy will surely suffer. In January, the government decided to cut back on the number of national holidays because too much work time was lost.

The 53-year-old Kim says he doesn't exercise, takes no vacations, sleeps five hours a night and spends the rest of the time working and making business deals. He wrote the book nights while waiting out a shipyard strike last spring.

Kim's commentary is full of personal anecdotes ranging from his school life ("not exemplary") to religion ("better than not having

one") to observations on why nations in southern Europe waste so much time on politics.

"My generation didn't eat well and couldn't dress well, but look at the Korea that we've built," he says, advising young people not to become smug because of the country's new consumerism and leisure time.

"Days are too short for me," he writes. "I wish they were 30 or 40 hours long. I sometimes shave and wash with a towel in the car on the way to work. I even occasionally have breakfast in the car."

He holds staff meetings before or after the regular workday and prides himself that at Daewoo a workday can mean 5 am until 9 pm.

"Wasting time is worse than wasting money, for you can always make more money," says Kim. "When it comes to making money, I'm an expert."

As founder and chairman of Daewoo, Kim oversees 70 overseas offices and 93,000 employees involved in trade, construction, shipbuilding and the manufacture of cars, industrial robots, telecommunication, consumer electronic products, textiles and home appliances.

The book skips over the ways Daewoo rose from a small textile exporter to the world's 46th largest industrial company in 22 years, omitting

mention of its ties to past authoritarian governments, low wages, easy bank credit and protectionist barriers that allowed Daewoo and other conglomerates to grow.

"There's a frantic trend nowadays to think only in terms of immediate profits. People are looking for comfort and satisfaction rather than having a fighting spirit to overcome difficulties and succeed in the long run."

He tells Korean women to stamp out sex discrimination by considering a job as a profession, not "a bus stop on the way to marriage."

"You have to find places that people have never been to and you have to do things that people haven't done before," he advises both sexes. "Of course there's danger in pioneering. Pioneers take paths that haven't been paved."

"There is too much egotism," he says. "If everyone's an egoist, then there's always going to be trouble." He recommends forming close lifetime friendships, a code followed closely among Korean businessmen, who often judge each other by the schools they've attended.

And he encourages daydreams. "Dreams are like the rudder of a ship setting sail. The rudder may be small and unseen, but it controls the ship's course."

Overseas investment in America surged in '89

NEW YORK, Jan 14, (Reuters): Foreign direct investment in the United States is believed to have surged by about \$66 billion last year, surpassing the previous record rise of \$58 billion in 1988, the association of International Investment said yesterday.

The lower value of the dollar against the Japanese yen and the West German mark has made US assets cheaper for foreign investors, who are expected to further antagonize American nationalists by buying even more US assets this year.

"There is every reason to believe that foreign investment will continue to grow at a rapid pace in 1990," said the association's corporate secretary, Brad Larschan.

The Washington-based trade body said total foreign investment in the first three quarters of 1989 rose by \$43.9 billion, 24 per cent faster than a year earlier, bringing total foreign investment to \$372.7 billion at the end of the third quarter.

The higher foreign profile has disgruntled many Americans, who have seen foreigners eager to grab a foothold in one of the world's most stable markets by investing in prized assets such as New York's Rockefeller Centre.

But although Japan is widely seen as the main outside threat to US business, Europeans continue to invest more in the United States than anyone else.

Britain led the surge with \$19.7 billion invested in the first three quarters, bringing their total investments in the United States to \$121.6 billion. Japan followed with a \$5.4 billion increase, to \$38.76 billion, it said.

This was a slowdown in Japanese investment from 1988 but the trade body, made up of US subsidiaries of foreign firms and US multinationals, said lagging data may be to blame.

Dutch, Canadian and West German investors followed Britain and Japan as the main investors in US assets.

At the same time, US foreign debt widened by \$52.6 billion in the nine-month period to \$381 billion — far above the \$108 billion debt of Brazil, the world's second largest debtor.

"These figures represent the continuing effects of the US budget and trade deficits," said the association's chairman Elliot Richardson, a former commerce secretary.

Daewoo names new presidents

THE Daewoo Group of Korea has announced a realignment of executive responsibilities that will see new presidents in charge of the group's trading company and its shipbuilding business. Also announced was the appointment of a new president of the group's planning and co-ordination division.

Young S. Yoon, 51, assumes responsibility for the group's world-wide trading activities as president of Daewoo Corporation's trading division.

Hyung-Suk Suh, 50, head of the trading corporation since 1987, becomes president of the planning and co-ordination division of Daewoo Group.

Tae-Gou Ki, 48, who as an executive vice president had been responsible for group planning and co-ordination since 1987, is being transferred to Daewoo Shipbuilding and Heavy Machinery, Ltd. and promoted to the rank of president.

The Daewoo Group has had longstanding policy of traditionally transferring key executives among its various companies to broaden experience and capabilities.

With 1988 sales of \$17.2 billion, the Daewoo Group is ranked 30th on the Fortune International 500.

China to issue fewer loans

BEIJING, Jan 14, (AP): The government will continue its tight credit policy and issue a smaller amount of loans in 1990 than last year, the governor of China's Central Bank has said.

Li Guixian, governor of the People's Bank of China, said the banking system faces enormous difficulties because of high demand for credit and a probable fall in bank revenues this year, the official China Daily reported today.

"The goal for austerity is far from achieved as we look at the serious shortages of energy and raw materials as well as sources of credit for the banking system," Li told a national banking conference Friday.

Tight credit has been a key factor in an austerity drive launched in the fall of 1988 to cool off the overheated economy and bring down inflation. Progress has been made toward those goals, but with the side-effect that many companies have run out of money to pay their bills or make new investments.

The week in business

Soaring energy, food costs push wholesale prices up

NEW YORK, Jan 14, (UPI): Both the Labor and Commerce Departments had bad news Friday for the US economy, adding a final sander note to a week punctuated by gloomy developments.

Wall Street reacted promptly to official statistics about lower-than-expected December retail sales and the inflation rate, with the Dow Jones industrial average dropping 71.24 to close Friday below the key 2700 level at 2688.42, its sharpest loss since a 190-point plunge in October.

The Commerce Department said retail sales were up by a mere 0.2 per cent to \$114.44 billion in December, a particularly dull performance for the holiday season.

December sales were only 3.8 per cent above their 1988 level, and total sales for 1989 were \$1.71 trillion, up 5 per cent from 1988, the slowest annual growth since a 2.9 per cent hike in 1982.

The Labor Department said higher energy and food costs pushed wholesale prices up 0.7 per cent in December, fanning inflation fears and bringing the 1989 price

hike to 4.5 per cent, an eight-year high that offset the 5 per cent gain in retail sales.

On the money markets, the dollar did not echo the bad news and was mixed in moderate trading in New York against major foreign currencies. It closed slightly against the West German mark at 1.4870, from 1.4797 Thursday, and up also against the yen at 145.70, from 145.38.

To earlier trading in Tokyo, the Bank of Japan intervened through a series of dollar-selling interventions.

Central Bank Governor Yasuhiro Mieno said the dollar's current appreciation against the yen is detrimental to Japan's price stability and the Central Bank will continue to intervene to stem the dollar's rise.

Earlier this week, most US banks had expressed confidence that inflation would remain under control, as they cut the prime rate Monday to 10 per cent from 10.5 per cent, the first reduction in six months.

The banks had been under pressure for weeks to reduce the prime after the Federal

Reserve eased short-term credit in November.

The poor retail environment did little to fend off the crisis looming at Campeau Corp's US retail divisions.

Suppliers and industry analysts were generally cheered late Thursday on Toronto-based Campeau announced the transfer of control over Federated Department Stores Inc. and Allied Stores Corp. to yet-to-be-named independent US trustees.

But they still questioned whether a restructuring of the retailers' combined \$7 billion debt could be achieved before a critical Monday deadline, when a bank syndicate led by Citibank is demanding the retailers prove their solvency or be declared in default on a \$2.34 billion loan, which could force Federated and Allied into filing for bankruptcy.

There was no reprieve for Memphis, Tennessee-based Julien Co., a major cotton merchant, which filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization Thursday, one day

after creditors sought to force the company into liquidation to recover debts estimated at \$344 million.

The company owes about \$325 million to secured creditors, including 11 banks, and \$19 million to unsecured creditors. The company has assets of \$160 million.

There also was some potentially bad news for Union Carbide Corp. with the new government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh in New Delhi, India, announcing Friday it would support efforts to overturn the \$470 million settlement between its predecessor and the US company.

The government viewed the settlement as far too lenient for Union Carbide and said it would pay "one-time" interim relief to people affected by the 1984 chemical spill in Bhopal, the world's worst industrial disaster which has to date claimed more than 3,300 lives.

To Chicago, UAL Corp. directors Friday ordered chairman Stephen Wolf to distance himself from negotiations with unions on a

possible new employee-led buyout.

Directors instructed UAL's legal and financial advisers to take charge of the negotiations. Wolf had sought Thursday to rally employees to vote out a buyout plan and an investment group that would leave the company in a highly leveraged situation.

In New York, the battle of the long-distance carriers went on a notch with American Telephone and Telegraph Co. filing a suit Wednesday against competitor MCI Communications Corp. over what AT & T described as "unfair and deceptive practices."

AT & T charged that MCI had lured "many thousands of subscribers" through deceptive allegations such as "AT & T is going out of business," or "AT & T and MCI have merged."

MCI dismissed the charges as another example of AT & T's frustration over a market share loss.

Shareholders of MGM/UA Communica-

tions Co., disgruntled over continued losses, were told Tuesday that the company has failed to find a buyer and will "100 per cent focus" on building the studio and making more films in the hope of generating more revenues.

To Detroit, General Motors Corp. Thursday ordered broad cutbacks from new hiring to advertising and said it will introduce incentives for white collar employees willing to leave.

The decision came amid sluggish US car sales and GM's declining market share.

Among the few good news of the week, Palo Alto, California-based Hewlett-Packard Co. unveiled a full line of computer systems with performance comparable to mainframes but at a much lower price.

The company said it had a pricing edge over International Business Machines Corp. and Digital Equipment Corp. at the low end of the mainframe lines due to the development of its new computer technology.

External debt will rise to \$60b

India vows to trim budget deficits

NEW DELHI, Jan 14, (Reuters): India, determined to curb its growing foreign debt, will be pragmatic about foreign investment and exchange controls while trying to trim increasing trade and budget deficits, Finance Minister Madhu Danavate said.

"There is an urgent need for our country not to get entangled in a debt trap," Danavate said in an interview on Saturday.

External debt will rise to \$60 billion by the end of the 1989/90 financial year in March from \$55 billion the year before, he said.

"That would imply the debt service ratio would be more than 30 per cent, whereas the safe ratio is about 20 per cent," said Danavate, 65, who began his career as a physics professor.

"The implication is that about one-third of our foreign exchange earnings will be spent on interest repayments rather than on development activities," he said.

Debt service ratio is the proportion of export earnings needed to repay debt.

India's foreign exchange reserves fell to \$3.2 billion at the

end of December from 4.3 billion at the end of 1988, according to official figures — enough to pay the import bill for two-and-a-half months.

"There is no soft solution to (debt reduction) except a long-drawn process to build an economy of self-reliance," said Danavate, former head of the defunct Indian Socialist Party.

"As a degree of self-reliance grows, the degree of external borrowing will go down."

He said India was not currently seeking a loan from the International Monetary Fund but would not rule it out. "Our intentions depend on the situation."

The World Bank has estimated India will have a current account deficit of \$6.2 billion in 1989/90 against 5.4 billion the year before.

Danavate said India would be pragmatic about foreign investment, which was only around \$150 million in 1988.

"We can't deny the reality that in certain fields the import of technology is inevitable, and we'll not hesitate to import it," he said.

"But we will not indiscrimin-

ately welcome foreign capital and technology because that will defeat the political will to build an economy of self-reliance."

The new National Front government that came to power after November elections would also be pragmatic about foreign exchange controls, he said.

India does not allow private individuals to have foreign currency accounts and restricts them from sending foreign exchange abroad.

"If any regulation becomes a hindrance to tourists as well as to improving our foreign exchange reserves we'll revise it," Danavate said.

The government was determined to stop the depreciation of the rupee, which has lost more than 30 per cent of its value against the dollar over the past three years, he said.

"To check the depreciation we would like to restrain deficits, mop up excess liquidity, and also check increasing money supply."

Broad money supply (M3) expanded by 19.5 per cent from December 1988 to December 1989, according to official figures.

E. Germany sets out plan

Blueprint for market economy

EAST BERLIN, Jan 14, (Reuters): East Germany set out its blueprint for a market-oriented economy yesterday including a convertible currency, private and foreign ownership and an end to subsidies on basic consumer goods.

"The bureaucracy of state planning will be completely abolished," a government commission report published in the Communist Party newspaper Neues Deutschland said.

"We foresee independent, decentralised enterprises working on market principles within certain limits of public interest," said the joint report by 11 working groups charged with reviving East Germany's ailing economy.

It said the state would set up an independent state bank whose task would be to work towards a convertible East German mark, so opening the country to full international trade.

But this would not be possible until East Germany ended its subsidies on basic goods and allowed prices to float freely.

"We must make the East German currency convertible. But first we must have an internal balance between the monetary value of goods and their price," the report said.

It said the state would give up its monopoly on foreign trade and encourage privatisation in most fields. Exceptions would include banking, insurance, water, energy, public transport and telecommunications.

The government would also issue strict rules on workers' rights and the environment and would protect the livelihood of small traders and artisans.

Prime Minister Hans Modrow has already announced that the government will replace the state Planning Commission, responsible for all economic decision-making, with a broader body of business managers, scientists and political groups.

Modrow's Economics Minister Christa Luft presented plans for the country's future, including

its policy on joint ventures with foreign companies, to a high-level delegation of top West German industrialists yesterday.

She is due to issue a decree in two weeks that will limit foreign participation in most joint ventures to 49 per cent.

A draft of the decree obtained by Reuters said the rule would be waived if a majority foreign holding was "in the interest of the economy."

Luft said on Friday small and medium-sized businesses were most likely to be able to skirt around the 49 per cent rule.

The commission report made no mention of East Germany seeking help from International Monetary Fund (IMF), as recommended by West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel.

Waigel said yesterday East Berlin should work with the IMF and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), saying he was disappointed with economic progress in East Germany so far.

West Germany has accused its neighbour of deterring foreign investment by insisting on the 49 per cent ceiling in joint ventures. East German leaders say they want to prevent a "sell-out" of the economy to Bonn.

In a move to stop West Germans snapping up its subsidised goods in shopping sprees across the open border, East Germany also intends to raise prices in the shops and offer individual living allowances in compensation.

It announced on Friday that children's clothes, a favourite item on West German shopping lists, would go up in price next week. As a result children's stores in East Berlin were packed out yesterday.

Luft told reporters she might reconsider the 49 per cent ceiling on foreign shares of joint ventures in the autumn, when parliament is due to vote on turning the decree into law.



Feathers from a vulture

Picture shows an aircraft engineer holds feathers from a vulture weighing at least 3.5 kilograms which struck a 2500 engine of an Indian Airlines A320 flying at 35,000 feet near New Delhi in late December. The engine continued to operate and the fan assembly was repaired without the aircraft missing a single scheduled flight.

Plans to double production

Airbus poised to win market

EUROPEAN plane-maker Airbus Industrie is now well placed to win one third of the civil aviation market in the coming decade with plans to double production over the next five years.

The optimistic forecast came from the consortium's managing director, Jean Pierson, at a press conference in Toulouse recently, as he reviewed the firm's progress in 1989 — its best year so far for orders — which has taken it to second place in the civil aviation sales league.

Last year Airbus Industrie sold 421 aircraft worth an estimated \$34 billion — increasing its client base by 13 carriers — with Middle East sales contributing to the record order book year.

In 1989, Airbus sold 42 aircraft in the region, with a further 38 commitments, compared to a combined sales total of 12 aircraft by all of its rivals, leaving it with a 60 per cent market share in the Middle East.

Its successes last year include a commitment by Bahrain-based Gulf Air to buy 12 A321 aircraft — the stretched version of the popular A320 — which was launched at the end of 1989 with a record order book. Gulf Air will be the first carrier in the Middle East, and among the first in the world, to take delivery of the advanced airliner in 1994.

During the year Gulf Air also became the first airline in the region to buy the Airbus A320, with an order for 12 aircraft and six options, while Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, agreed to buy a further three Airbus Industries A310s and two A330s — becoming the first carrier in the Middle East to purchase the new high-capacity aircraft.

He said: "History will also record that, during the eighties, it was Airbus Industrie which pioneered the innovations that will become commonplace in the nineties — such as fly-by-wire controls driven by computers, widebody twin-engine aircraft seating more than 300 people, and the widespread use of new materials — making flying even more affordable for everyone."

Iran, Austria to expand trade

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Jan 14, (AP): Tehran and Vienna yesterday agreed to boost trade and industrial co-operation, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the agreement was announced following talks between Erik Witmann, who arrived in Tehran Saturday at the head of an Austrian delegation for a five-day visit, and Iran's Deputy Minister Amir Ashraf Akhbari.

Akhbari told Witmann Iran is willing to boost co-operation with Austria in the paper industry, foodstuffs, mining, heavy industries, and research and training, Iran said.

Akhbari urged Witmann to adjust any trade imbalance between the two countries.

Witmann signed any figures. Witmann noted that his country's imports from Iran have risen by 65 per cent, while Austrian exports to Tehran have increased by 24 per cent since March, Iran reported.

It added Witmann said his country was keen to take part in Iran's reconstruction projects, launched after the August 1988 ceasefire in the eight-year war with Iraq.

Witmann suggested that Tehran and Vienna set up a joint economic commission to boost trade within a few months, Iran said.

Sterling expected to remain underpinned: NBK study

AT the start of the week the dollar benefited on profit-taking in the DM market following the Italian lira's realignment within the EMS. However these earlier were entirely eroded with the higher-than-expected PPI number. Although the implied policy response suggests that further Fed easing will be delayed, the adverse impact on equities and bonds was correspondingly felt in the dollar market, according to NBK weekly market review.

As expected following the Federal Reserve's monetary relaxation during fourth quarter 1989 leading banks cut their prime rates by half a percentage point to 10 per cent. There was little reaction in the markets.

The dollar ended the week at DM 1.679 and yen 145.3.

The batch of economic data releases for the coming week will be keenly awaited and include merchandise trade, industrial production and consumer prices. They should provide fresh evidence of the level of economic growth in the US and the extent of inflationary pressure.

However we still maintain that whilst a recession is put at outside risk, economic growth for the forthcoming year will evidence slowdown.

Nevertheless with inflationary pressure remaining and given the dollar's demise, the Federal Reserve will continue to be wary of prematurely easing policy and a gradualist approach will continue to be adopted. Imminent action by the Federal Reserve is now eliminated. Consequently the bond and equity markets are liable to continue to be adversely affected for the time being.

Trading ranges for the coming week are: DM 1.65-1.69 and Yen 143-147.

The likelihood of a reduction in interest rates prior to the budget appears to have faded somewhat and the pound has subsequently adopted a firmer tone this week.

Economic data was mildly disappointing with final retail sales falling less than expected in November and consumer credit advancing although the impact on the markets was marginal.

Sterling ended the week at £/\$1.67 and £/DM2.80.

The impact of rising pay awards and its consequent effect on the government's economic strategy is causing considerable concern and the Chancellor, John Major, has once again intimated that interest rates will stay high if not

higher until there is a clear slowdown in inflation and pay awards. Consequently, the pound is expected to remain underpinned, supported by high interest rate differentials.

There are a number of economic data releases due out next week which should provide further evidence of the extent of the slowdown in the UK economy in 1989. However both average earnings and retail prices are likely to be disappointing.

Trading ranges for the coming week are expected to be as follows: DM2.78-2.82 and £/\$1.65-1.70.

Last weekend the Italian lira was devalued within the EMS by 3.5 per cent. However its wider trading band of 6 per cent was reduced to that followed by all other currencies within the EMS of 2.25 per cent. No other currencies within the EMS were realigned. Interpretation of policy by G7 members appears to be a firm commitment to stability within the EMS with further EMS realignment ruled out. This was very much endorsed by remarks from Karl Otto Pöhl, President of the Bundesbank who dismissed chances of an early EMS realignment.

West Germany's trade surplus widened to DM10.6 billion in November from DM9.48 billion in October. Exports declined from DM57.6 billion in October to DM55.1 billion, however imports also declined from DM48.1 billion to DM44.4 billion.

Consequently in the immediate aftermath, profit-taking on the Deutschemark saw it move only slightly lower.

However with a commitment to current EMS policies the weaker members within the system will inevitably have to maintain a firm monetary policy to ease currency pressure and further interest rate rises in these countries are feasible.

Preliminary figures indicate the strongest growth rate of the decade for West Germany with a GNP figure of 4 per cent for 1989. This can be largely attributable to strong export performance and capital investment. The figure compares with a 3.6 per cent growth rate in 1988. Separately the cost of living index rose 2.3 per cent last year from 1988 and retail sales increased 3 per cent in November from a year earlier compared with 2.7 per cent for the first eleven months of the previous year.

West Germany's trade surplus widened to DM10.6 billion in November from DM9.48 billion in October. Exports declined from DM57.6 billion in October to DM55.1 billion, however imports also declined from DM48.1 billion to DM44.4 billion.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD rate higher against dollar

Kuwaiti dinar

Based on last week's opening middle market FX rates, the KD exchange rate traded higher against the US\$ ending the week at 291.30 fils compared with its week before last closing of 292.88 fils. The KD was easier against the pound sterling, ending the week at 483.56 fils compared with its week before last closing of 470.58 fils. The KD was easier against the DM ending the week at 172.91 fils compared with its week before last closing of 172.51 fils. The KD was also easier against the SFR ending the week at 192.21 fils compared with its week before last closing of 185.60 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market review.

The KD was higher against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 428.38 fils compared with its week before last closing of 430.71 fils. The KD traded higher against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market, short-term interbank offer rates traded relatively higher within a narrow range over the week. Both one-month and three-months interbank rates traded over the week at 8.50 per cent — 8.62 per cent range compared with 8.50 per cent — 8.56 per cent and 8.37 per cent — 8.43 per cent range for both 6 and 12 months.

World stock markets

Wall Street stock prices fell sharply last week, undermined earlier in the week by programme selling, concerns about US corporate profits and an uncertain economic outlook. Later in the week, prices were driven sharply lower by fears that inflation has been rekindled and interest rates will not be able to come down. The producer prices report, showing a 0.7 per cent rise in December was the trigger for the stock market's sharp drop, as it raised questions about how quickly short-term interest rates will be permitted to decline.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2794 and closed lower at 2689, recording a loss of 44 points over the previous week's closing at 2733.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange declined sharply last week as losses on Wall Street weighed on sentiment. Recent volatility of markets worldwide was dampening the interest of institutional investors. Light buying for the new account failed to counter the negative sentiment generated by Wall Street's losses following the stronger than expected rise in December producer prices. The FTSE-100 opened the week at 2431 and closed lower at 2380, recording a loss of 64 points over the previous week's closing of 2444.

US dollar

The US dollar traded higher against major currencies for most part of the week, and despite this fact the dollar is not seen holding its current position for long. The dollar strength was partly due to the weakness of other currencies which was heavily affected by profit-taking, following several weeks of continued strength.

US Producer Prices Index (PPI) rose 0.7 per cent in December, compared to a 0.1 per cent decline in November and expectations for a gain of 0.5 per cent in December. The core PPI, which excludes food and energy, increased 0.6 per cent, accelerating from a 0.2 per cent rise in November and exceeding forecasts of a 0.3 per cent December gain.

A jump in energy costs helped push producer prices up. The December gain in PPI lifted the index to 4.8 per cent for all of 1989, compared with a 4.0 per cent rise in the previous year. Energy prices reflecting freezing temperatures last month rebounded, gaining 1.4 per cent after a 3.5 drop in November.

Pound sterling

The pound opened the week against the US\$ at \$1.6540/50 and closed higher at \$1.6600/10 compared to its week before last closing at \$1.6345/55.

The pound recovered last week, moving higher as it was well supported by its current high yield and by speculation UK authorities may raise interest rates further due to inflation worries. Ford car workers rejected an offer of a 10.2 per cent rise, thus heightening inflation concerns.

Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major said that if pay rises are not to fuel inflation they must be accompanied by productivity gains. He also said the level of British interest rates will be determined by the government's success in getting inflation down.

The pound is expected to trade firm against the German mark, due to the high levels of interest rates. Against the US dollar, the pound is expected to trade in ranges of \$1.66-1.68 in the short-term.

Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the dollar at 144.10/20 yen and closed the week lower at 145.75/85 yen compared to its week before last closing at 144.50/60 yen. The overall market sentiment for the yen continued to be bearish mainly ahead of Japanese elections, which is expected on February the 18th.

Japan's customs cleared trade surplus in the first 20 days in December narrowed to \$1.09 billion compared to \$3.59 billion from the same period a year ago. The sharp rise in Japan's oil imports has helped reduce Japan's trade surplus in the first 20 days of December. Oil imports increased to \$1.59 billion in the period from \$966 billion from a year earlier. Increasing demand for oil due to robust economic activity as well as a rise in oil prices boosted the value of oil imports.

The Japanese yen is expected to remain under some pressure for the coming week, although the yen is expected to trade within a narrow trading range. Accordingly, the yen is expected to trade against the dollar around the 145-146 yen.

Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week against the US\$ at 1.6665/75 marks and closed the week higher at 1.6865/75 marks compared to its week before last closing at 1.6900/10 marks.

The mark seems to be still the strong currency in the foreign exchange markets. Apparently, after its recent rises over the last 2 months, the mark consolidated around the board against major currencies, over the past week thus losing some of its strength.

W. German Gross National Product for all of 198

EVENTS



Dr Yecoub Al Sharrah



The graduates



Sawsan Al Dajani, director of educational affairs at the institute



Secretarial graduates receive their certificates

UNDER the auspices of the Assistant Undersecretary for Private Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education, Dr Yaqoub Al Sharrah, the Institute for Private Education and the Pitman Centre for Secretarial and Business Studies

recently held a celebration to distribute the centre's graduation certificates of the academic year 1988/1989.

The graduation ceremony took place at Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel's

ballroom. Dr Al Sharrah spoke of the standards the graduates achieved. Speeches were also delivered by the Director of Educational Affairs Sawsan Al Dajani and the centre's director Robert Walker.

CINEMA

- Al Andalus
- Arabic film
- Salmiyah
- Arabic film
- Al Hamra
- Arabic film
- Drive-In
- Revenge of Nerds II
- Al Firdous
- Malamaal
- Fahadhel
- Halloween IV
- Al Jahra
- Saigon
- Granada
- License to Kill
- Salaikhah
- Malene
- Jeeb
- Lakhi Badhu
- Ahmadi Drive-In
- Top Line

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait City
Granada Pharmacy
Fahed Al Salem Street
Al Salam Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabir Street

Hawalli and Al Nagra
Al Waleed Pharmacy
Tunis Street

Al Salmiya and Al Rumethiya
Al Rashed Pharmacy
Al Rumethiya

Al Fahadhel and Al Ahmadi
Burgan Pharmacy
Souk Al Sabah

Jeeb Al Shuyookh
Wahran Pharmacy
Al Souk Street

Al Jahra
Al Abrar Pharmacy
Duabul Al Khozai Street

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.20 am
Zohr	11.57
Asr	2.52 pm
Maghreb	5.11
Isha	6.33



Al Mazroui distributing the prizes



The audience

Children's Rights

THE Kuwaiti National Committee for the Celebration of the Arab Children's Week held a function on Wednesday in honour of participants who took an active role in the celebrations held last October. The function was held at Duiya hall under the auspices of the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Youth Affairs, Abdul Rahman Al Mazroui, and was attended by a large audience.

Mazroui gave away certificates to teachers, supervisors and children who took part in the celebrations. The celebrations were held under the banner "Children's Rights."



Sheikha Al Toura speaking on behalf of the children

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Photography and Oil painting classes

OIL painting classes beginning 15 January. Photography classes beginning 16 and 17 January. 8 week course, once a week, 4.30 to 7.30 pm. For further details please call Ann Eid Tel. 2426135 or Yasmeen 5326833.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints

THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in the Light of Zodiakal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Iraqi ceramics

AN exhibition of Iraqi ceramics is currently being held at the Hunting and Equestrian Club. The exhibition will be opened everyday until January 26 from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making - For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

SOCIAL

Folk songs

A CULTURAL show on popular folk songs and dances of Bangladesh organised by Nirjhar cultural group will be presented at the auditorium of Sharq Co-operative on Jan 19 at 6pm.

K.M. Shehabuddin, the ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Kuwait, has kindly consented to grace the occasion as the chief guest. For details please contact: Maho Alam 4315692 Salam 4330416, Jaisal 2420711, 2409987, Mannan 4317223.

British Council

LECTURE: Postgraduate study in Britain, Monday January 22 - The Gallery 6.00 pm. Are you interested in finding out about studying in Britain for your Masters or PhD degree? Come along to our lecture on Monday night. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve your seat: phone 2533204/2533227.

Study the humanities and social sciences in Britain. For more information on degree-level studies of these subjects, please visit the British Council education office on Monday and Tuesday, 15 and 16 January, 9.00 am to 12.30 pm and 5.00 to 8.00 pm.

Ballet

STEPS Ballet School commences its new term. Jan 1990 registration is now open. Sat-Wed in the Kuwait English School, Salwa from 3-7 pm. Call 5386481 between 9-12 noon for more information. (For girls only 4-15 years).

Caledonian Society

The Annual Burns Night Supper will be held at Messalah Beach Hotel on Thursday, February 1st. For further information and ticket reservation phone: 5335082, 5332235 or 3727691 ext. 253.

The Carnival Nite

"THE Entertainers" proudly announces for the first time in Kuwait "The Carnival Nite" which is scheduled to be held at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel's Le Mirage main ballroom on 22nd February 1990. Be sure to be there with all your glit and glamorous costumes to witness this traditional event. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers will rhythm out their best musical performance for this occasion.

Ramada Al Salam GRAND Indian Food Festival from January 21-26. Display stalls open to Indian companies and individuals. Contact Clifton or Siddiq on 4835344.

Kalpak's Drama Competition

KERALA Arts and Literature Promotion Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is conducting a Malayalam One Act Play Competition at Indian Arts Circle on 9th February 1990.

Konkani Drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on the 16th of February, 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, are holding auditions for a comedy to be staged in the theatre in early March and directed by Dave Dorrington. The auditions will be held in the Theatre on 21 and 22 January at 8 pm. All those interested in auditioning are welcome. Those interested in helping backstage are also welcome to attend.

Bingo games

AN invitation is extended to anybody who would like to join our Bingo games and dinner buffet on January 18, 6.00 pm, at the Sunrise Pinoy Restaurant-Fahadhel. Dinner will start at 9.00 pm. Bingo cards will be given upon entry. Come and join us and share the fun. For queries: 3918884.

Tivim Centre

"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers - 2441860 Casimiro."

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel: 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Like a Hurricane

SEVENTH Sky's upcoming Rock concert at Al Andalus cinema on 15th & 16th February, 1990. We are looking for voluntary helpers and also an additional male & female vocalist. Ring 5748476 or 2543219.

Saez aur Aawaz

SAAZ aur Aawaz which is one of the leading Indian musical groups with complete orchestra presents their fourth musical programme entitled "Bhute Bisie Geer" covering hit songs of yesteryears at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaites on Friday, Feb 2, 1990 at 6 pm. There will also be lucky draw prizes. For passes call 3985456/3610224/5638026.

SPORTS

Now at the MBH Sports Centre

Life saving course, with Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade I Examiner will be commencing shortly. Ergocycle Fitness Computer tests and courses now available at Messilah. Jazzercise/Aerobics/Staying power/Yoga and Ballet exercise classes also available.

Mitsubishi table tennis

The Mitsubishi table tennis tournament for ladies, gents and mixed doubles at the IAC badminton hall on Fri 19th Jan starting at 9.00 am. Finals of last weeks junior boys singles and doubles will also be held along with the prize giving ceremonies for all events (including junior girls). All members, their families and guests interested in participating please call IAC (3904817 after 7 pm), or Jagdish at 2433552, or Sharma at 2644863 for entry passes and details.

Daniella Dart Tournament 1990

The Dart Tournament for Dances will take place at the Gazelle Club on Friday, Jan 26, starting at 2pm (expected to finish at 8 pm). It is a family event featuring separate junior tournament, so don't leave the children at home. For further details and registration, please call Henrik Licht - 3727688 ext 246, or Bjarne Rasmussen - 3720137 before Saturday, Jan 20.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabab Al Khir News
- 9.50 Cartoon serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Toyour Billal Ajneha: Arabic serial (final part)
- 11.45 From My Kitchen: Local programme
- 12.05 Sabab Al Kher news
- 12.15 Al Malqout: Local serial (part 2), starring Abdul Hussain Abdul Redha, Mohammed Jaber and Abdullah Khraibit
- 12.30 News summary
- 12.35 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING PERIOD

- 4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite
- 4.45 Breen: cartoon serial
- 5.15 Manza Anisa and Children: Local children's programme, prepared by Samiya Mohammed and presented by Mama Anisa
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Imam Mohammed Abdoh: historical serial (part 15)
- 7.00 Varieties
- 7.15 Holy Quran and Science: Religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ahmad Shawqi Ibrahim
- 8.00 Cultural serial (part 2)
- 8.30 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Onsayat Al Ethneen: Local weekly programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Barjes
- 10.15 Ghaadon Tushreho Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 13)
- 11.15 Al Mawed: Variety programme (part 2), with guest stars Noor Al Shereef and Bousi
- 12.15 News summary
- 12.20 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.45 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 6.10 Winnie the Poob. A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Wild South. "Sealion Summer". A look at Sealion off the shores of New Zealand during summer. The season of mating and birth...
- 7.00 Roving Report. A weekly round-up of local, Arab and international news.
- 7.30 Trap. "Secrets of Fire". Paul has to find out the secret of a deserted castle where it is said that a treasure is buried inside the castle which is haunted by ghosts...
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Around the World. The Egyptian woman and jewels... celebrating father's day in Helwan... maintaining historical buildings in San'a...
- 9.00 Tour of Duty. "For What It's Worth". When a base latrine blows up, killing a Chaplain, Taylor is falsely accused. Gold-man tries to have him released, while Johnson and Percell cancel their much-needed R&R to help an increasingly paranoid Ruiz.
- 10.00 Homeroom. "Looking for West Coast Travelling". Donald the teacher uses music as a means to help his students understand history and regains his friends respect.
- 10.30 Colourised film "Arsenic & Old Lace". Starring: Cary Grant, Josephine Hull, Priscilla Lane. Two dear, well-meaning old ladies invite lonely old men to their Brooklyn home and poison them. Their mad brother who believes the corpses are yellow fever victims, buries them in the cellar...
- 12.00 News in Brief
- 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite



Bingo winners

Arab Times Bingo No. 74 winners received their prizes yesterday. From left are Jasbir K. Bhatia (First Full House), Tony Alick (Four Corners) and Carlos Menezes (Top Line).



Egyptian ambassador's wife hosts reception

Wife of the Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait, Majedah Refa'i, held a reception at her new residence. A large number of wives of diplomats in Kuwait and well known Kuwaiti and other ladies attended the function which lasted several hours. Picture shows Majedah Refa'i (right) with Hadaya Al Sultan.

FOR COMPANIES ONLY
Accommodation
available for bachelors in
Mina Abdulla area.
For further info, please call 3929514 or
3926847, Mr. George Hanna.

BLONDIE



MAGAR THE HORRIBLE



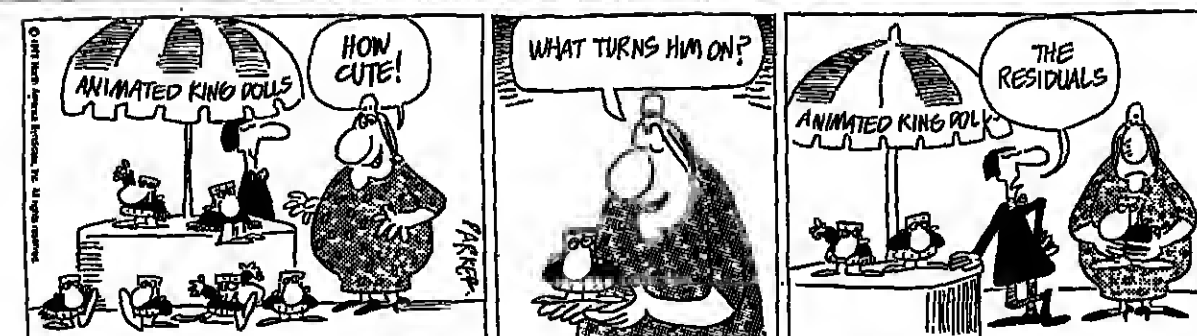
AGATHA CRUMM



BEETLE BAILEY



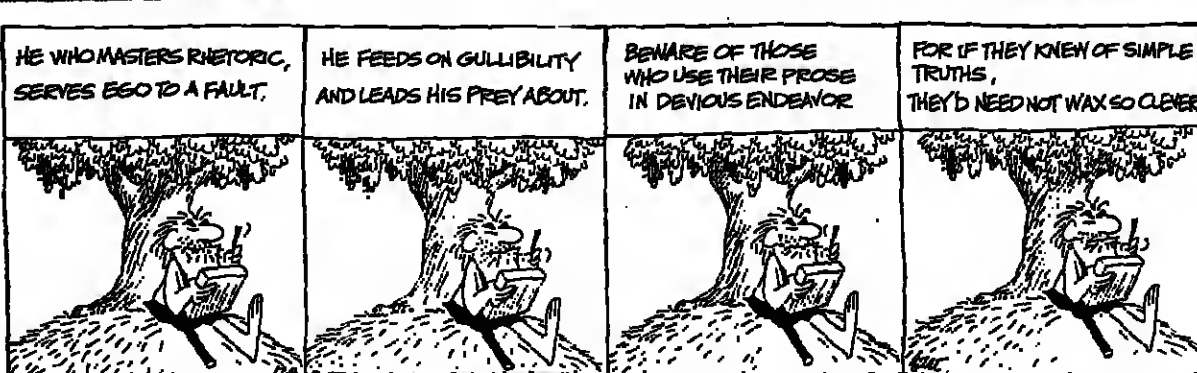
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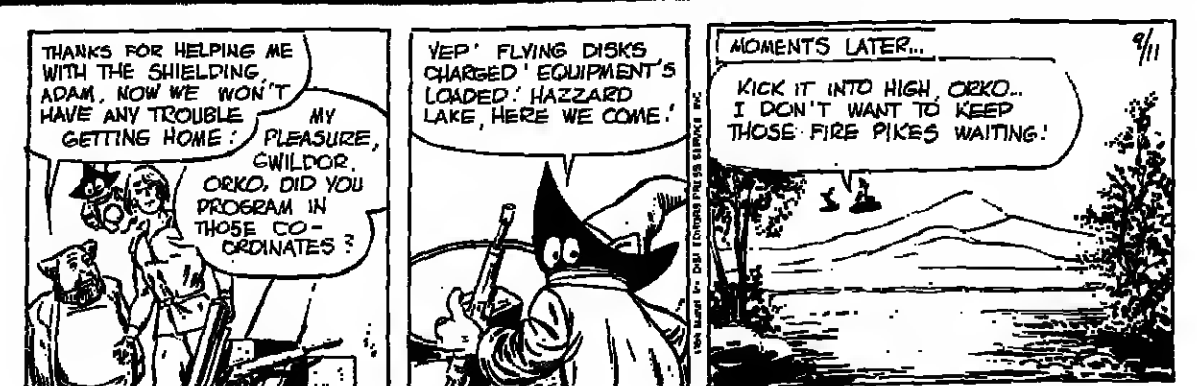
ANDY CAPP



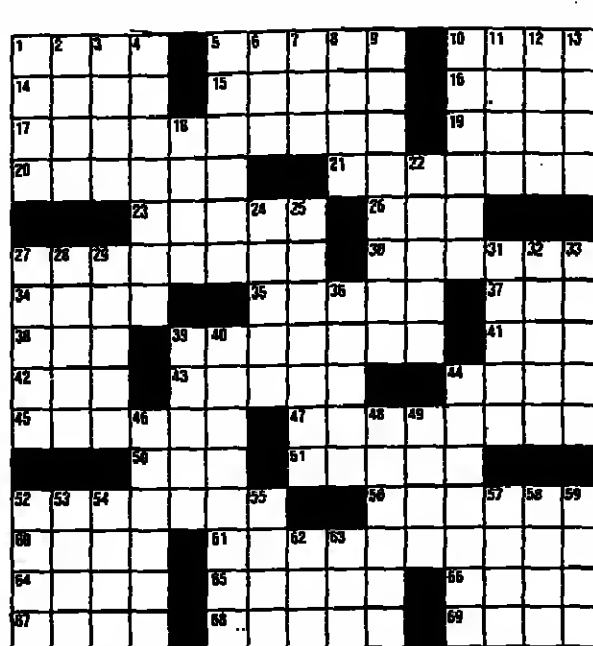
B.C.



HE-MAN



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Sailing heroine
5 Man from Muscat
10 Aim
14 Campus counselor
15 Unit of electrical capacitance
16 Leather flask, in old Greece
17 "— end Roses"
19 Harold of funnias
20 Plant stems
21 Parks the yacht
23 Combat zone
26 —la-la
27 English lilt
30 Metrical foot
34 Small opening
35 Squabbles
37 Business letter ebb
38 Words from the altar
39 Festive fowl
41 Prevaricate
42 Those, in Paris
43 Approach, old style
44 Part of a marathon
45 Sport shoes, for short
47 Meted out
50 House alecote: Abbr.
51 Texas shrine
52 Costumes for "The Mikado"
56 Iran of old
60 Agenda
61 Wise guys
64 Entertainer
65 Sniggler

DOWN

1 Educ. degs.
2 Candidata's quest
3 Ballerina
4 Subjugate
5 Balance
6 Poppy seed
7 Biblical lion
8 Zola novel
9 Point out
10 "The Big Apple"
11 Ersatz butter
12 Initiator
13 Author
14 Deighton and namesakes
18 Vegetable
22 Ill-mannered
24 — Dame
25 Buffalo hunting tribe

Grand tales

28 Shade of green
29 Uneven
31 Line of the movies
32 Practical
33 R. E. Lee's Traveller
36 Wild
39 Deceived, with "in"
40 Tacit
44 Sailor's haven
46 Odors
48 Relatives of the rhinoceros
49 "— a man..."
52 "Dressed to —"
53 Willow
54 Fix
55 Snick-or—
57 Skirt
58 "Casablanca" role
59 Those connected with: Suffix
62 Corrida cheer
63 Marry

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
USE YOUR ENTRY WISELY

East-West vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH

♠ J 4

♥ K 5 3

♦ Q J 9 8 6 4

♣ 10 5

WEST

♠ 6 3 2

♥ A J 7

♦ 7 5 3

♣ J 9 8 4

EAST

♠ K 10 9 8 7 5

♥ 8 6 4

♦ K 10

♣ Q 7

SOUTH

♠ A Q

♥ Q 10 9 2

♦ A 2

♣ A K 6 3 2

The bidding:

East 1 ♠

Pass

1 ♠

Pass

South

1 ♠

Pass

2 NT

Pass

3 NT

Pass

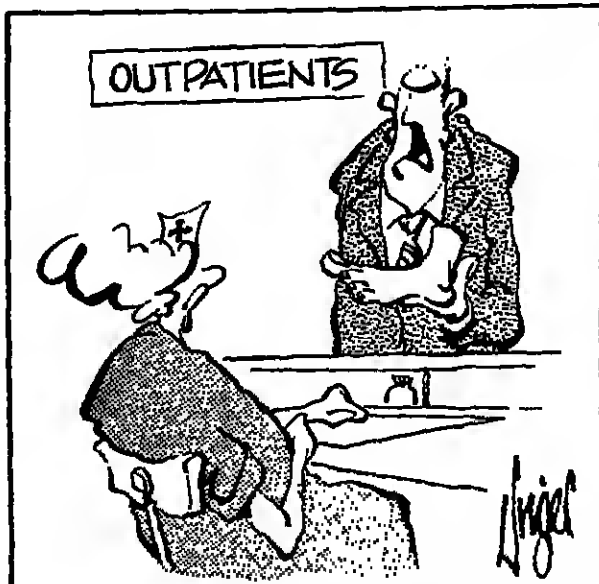
Opening lead: Six of ♠. Necessity is the mother of invention. South's play of three no trump was forced upon him by the opening lead.

There are those who might quibble with South's decision to rebid two no trump with two doubletons. However, one was in his partner's suit and the other was a double stopper in the overcaller's suit, so we

endorse his action. Unfortunately for South, East's overall resulted in the one lead to cause a major headache — with any lead other than a spade, declarer could have set up dummy's diamonds and would then have had only to find the ace of hearts with West to coast home. Now that play would not work, because the defenders could score at least three spade tricks (four on the actual distribution) and a trick in each red suit.

Declarer, Ed Netter of Greenwich, Conn., worked out an alternative plan that involved collecting two spade tricks, three hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. After winning the queen of spades, he led the queen of hearts. West could do no better than take his ace and knock out declarer's remaining spade stopper, but the cards lay well for declarer.

After winning the ace of spades, declarer raked the ten of hearts. When a heart to the king fetched the jack, declarer needed just one more slice of luck to land his game. He led the queen of diamonds and, when East turned out to have the king, all was well. The nine tricks were in the bag.



YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20

You will find it a little difficult to keep your mind on what you are doing. There will be a lot of noise and you should do all you can to reduce it. Try to do more to people relying less on others. Be helpful.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20

Everything will seem to go wrong today, never mind it will soon all fall into place. You should pay a little more attention to your personal affairs. If you make a few concessions you will gain in the end. Be courteous.



Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22

Have some more faith in yourself. Do not turn back on change but avoid innovation for its own sake. Do your best to avoid needless complications. Be sensible.



Capricorn
Dec 21 - Jan 19

Do not attempt to run before you can walk, but do not lag behind either. You should make sure you do not lose sight of your objectives. Do what you can to avoid a situation that is not to your liking. Be to the point.



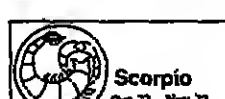
Taurus
April 21 - May 20

Do try to be swift, but not at the expense of accuracy. You are a little too liable to believe what you would like to be. Try to show just a little more enthusiasm. Be a bit more patient.



Leo
July 21 - Aug 21

Something you have learnt recently will stand you in good stead. You should try to think a little more positively. Do not allow others to take advantage of you. Be reliable.



Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

You are all too liable to get caught up in legal problems and should seek to forestall them. You will be able to do something more constructive. Avoid mixing pleasure with business. Be realistic.



Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 19

Do not try to evade the issue or else it will re-emerge more intractably later. You should do your best to avoid getting excited even when dealing with others who are. Make sure you do not allow your emotions to get the better of you. Be tolerant.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

Not everything will proceed as smoothly as you would wish. Your lucky numbers are 10 and 29. Try to ensure you do not keep others waiting. Remember that practice makes perfect. Be responsive.



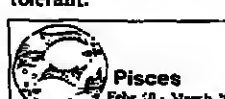
Virgo
Aug 23 - Sept 22

Do not rely on good luck although you may well have some. You should not dwell so much on the past, think more of the future. Do not eat more than you know you should. Be virtuous.



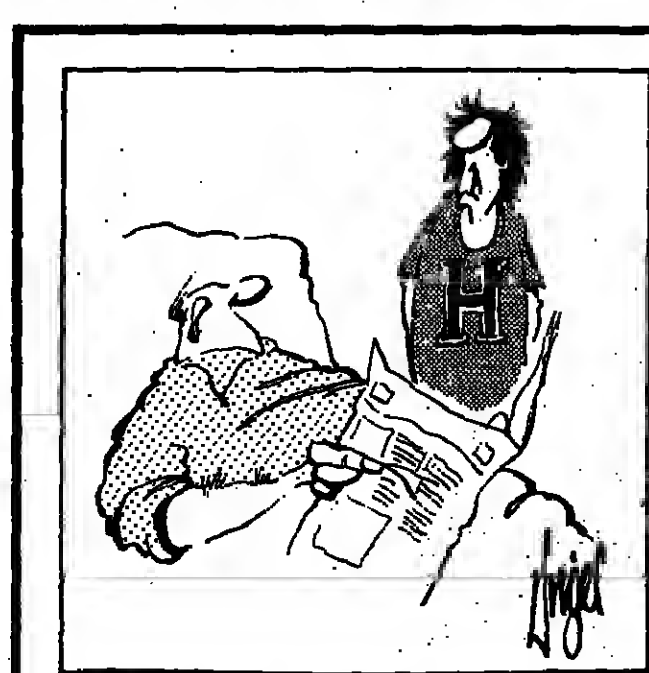
Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 20

You should avoid going to extremes and exceeding limits. And do try to avoid getting into an argument. Show a little more concern and give credit where it is due. Be punctual.



Pisces
Feb 20 - March 20

You are more liable to make mistakes. Do read what you have written before letting it go. Mars' influence will help you to overcome a certain degree of competitiveness. Do not allow secondary matters to predominate. Be magnanimous.



"My teacher assures me that even though I have your nose and eyes, genetics have absolutely nothing to do with the brain."



"Get me to the airport in 10 minutes and I may overlook this filthy cab."



Gere: there's an edge of danger to the character I play

'I don't want to play a nice guy'

Gere seeking off-centre roles

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): In many of the films he's done, Richard Gere appears to be a throwback to a couple of the brightest stars of the 1930s and 40s, namely John Garfield and Humphrey Bogart.

As with those legends, Gere is not conventionally handsome. But more to the point, he brings to mind Bogie and Garfield with his selection of roles. Gere inevitably plays the hard-edged protagonist whose dark side clouds whatever heroics he may demonstrate.

Garfield in "The Postman Always Rings Twice" and Bogart in "Treasure Of The Sierra Madre" illustrated the wisdom of their choices.

Robert Redford, Paul Newman, or even young Tom Cruise, are straight-ahead leading men who play characters of sterling quality.

Not Gere. He actively seeks off-centre characters with fatal flaws.

His most recent choice is as the menacing cop in "Internal Affairs," a scheming,

charming, deadly killer without a single redeeming feature.

In Hollywood recently on a visit his home in New York, Gere was thoughtful about comparisons with Garfield and Bogart and their shared proclivity for playing dubious heroes.

"Maybe there's room for comparison, but it's hard for me to think in those terms," Gere said. "The guy Bogart played in 'Pittsburgh Forest' was the kind of role that appeals to me."

"And, believe it or not, there was a time when I was going to play Garfield in a movie about the Hollywood blacklist, but it never came off."

"Neither one of them seemed interested in playing nice guys. And I don't want to play a nice guy either. There's an edge of danger to the characters I play."

"When I'm told not to play a role because the character is not redeemable in any way or that nobody will sit and watch him for a couple of hours, I know I can

make it work."

Time after time, in "An Officer And A Gentleman," "American Gigolo," "Looking For Mr Goodhart" and "Beverly Hills Cop," Gere has demonstrated his ability to bring to life the complex protagonist with as many bad qualities as good.

"Obviously, the complex man is more interesting to play," he said. "There are good and bad characteristics in all of us. The complex man is more real. I look around me and see that they are the real people. I couldn't play a yuppie or the equivalent. Boring."

"Peck, the cop in 'Internal Affairs,' is very manipulative, which is what the movie is all about — control. The image I had in mind while playing him was a man with unusual talents and a terrible weakness."

"In many respects Peck is a good cop. But the other side of him is like a big jungle cat, a lion or tiger, a killer who knows his

jungle."

"He's not a serial killer or psychotic. He kills only when he's cornered. It's a lot of fun playing a villain of Peck's stature. It was like playing Lancelotti and Richard III in drama classes."

"I felt it was important to play him because he deals with existential questions constantly, knowing he has a great deal to hide."

"In a lot of ways I'm as difficult to read as Peck is. You can't play anything that you don't have. If you invest a character with certain qualities, it means you are drawing on your own experiences. I had to have some recollection of control and manipulation to give them to Peck."

"He's a murderer and I'm not, but I have to feel what that is like. All the worst in humanity and all the best can be found to some degree in everyone."

"I've never played a villain this dark before. But I always wanted to."

Warning against global warming

Changing atmosphere

GENEVA, (Kuna): Despite uncertainties about the precise nature of climate changes that will take place — it is becoming increasingly clear that the earth and its atmosphere can no longer be taken for granted to ensure survival, in the face of rapid discharge of pollutants by various man-made practices.

"The worst possible case scenario would result if humanity does nothing to arrest the present tendency towards global warming," said Professor G.P. Obasi, secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), in an exclusive interview to Kuna.

On the basis of available data, scientists and research groups have used models run on powerful super computers to predict a warming of 2 to 5 degrees Celsius in the global mean equilibrium surface temperature of the earth.

"However, the question of exactly when such equilibrium temperature will be reached is very uncertain. This is because of the long, but not well known, lag time of a number of decades introduced by the large heat storage of the oceans, which form three-fourths of the earth's surface."

"In addition, while the model outputs agree reasonably about the magnitude of the global temperature response, they are in hopeless disagreement about the regional or national scale changes in precipitation and temperature that will occur," Obasi said.

What is sure, however, is that the chemistry of the earth's atmosphere is undergoing rapid change. Data over the last 120 years, since the advent of industrialisation, show that the concentration of carbon dioxide — the main greenhouse gas (GHG) — has increased from 280 parts per million (PPM) to 351 PPM by volume now, showing an increase of 25 per cent.

Similarly, emission of other GHGs like methane, nitrous oxide, and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) is increasing. Methane increases exponentially with the increases in world population. The increased application for fertilisers to boost agricultural production means greater release of nitrous oxide.

CFCs (from aerosols, refrigerants and solvents) are powerful greenhouse gases and a serious threat to the stratospheric ozone layer. Their production and release has increased from zero in 1930 to a total of over 1,100 thousand metric tonnes in 1988.

Use of CFCs in various modern applications such as sprays and for refrigeration, is on the rise. While use of substitutes to CFCs involves loss of billions of dollars in investments already made by industry, for the developing countries in particular, the cost of alternate technologies, if made available, is pertinent.

More automobiles on road are contributing to another GHG known as tropospheric ozone (low-level), which is dangerous for the human respiratory system and also contributes to the global warming.

It is estimated that the present scale of deforestation, through a loss of capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, is contributing two billion tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere. Added to this is the annual emission of five billion tonnes of carbon by industry and burning of fossil fuels.

"All these gaseous emissions have certain radiative properties which are changing the radiative balance of the earth. The changing chemical composition of the atmospheric medium is bound to affect the climate and observations from numerous stations around the globe do point towards a trend in climate change," Obasi said.

However, he added that the scientific community is still engaged in a controversy over whether the world climate is actually changing. Some argue that the variations observed are still within the natural variability of climate change — caused by orbital changes of the earth and due to solar emissions.

Most of the current model predictions are handicapped — as little is known about the behaviour of clouds, for instance, or the oceans and their interaction with the atmosphere. Also, as to what will actually be the response of the global community to perceived climate changes.

Above all, the WMO secretary-general stressed, there is need to improve and strengthen the global monitoring and information system in various parts of the world, so that scientists can then be in a better position to make more accurate forecasts about the likely behaviour of climate — temperature, rainfall patterns and sea-level rises.

Very few developing countries contribute to the measurement of greenhouse gases, thus creating a serious geographical imbalance in the data available. For example, no GHG measurement stations exist in Africa.

"Many scientists believe that within the next ten years a firm indication of the climate change will start showing, i.e. signals above the natural transition warming," Obasi observed.

However, for the necessary research inputs, he considers the present network of the WMO — comprising the global observing system of the "world weather watch" and the "global atmosphere watch" — as inadequate.

But so far, the response to the recently launched WMO climate fund of \$22 million — mainly for enhancing the network in the developing countries — has not been forthcoming.

Adequate level of current investment by the 160-member nations of the WMO can help make the research and monitoring efforts to be successful. Only then can the WMO, as the "police man of the earth" issue timely alerts to the world community, Obasi pointed out.

Moreover, such a step will also be cost-effective. "Unless you narrow down the uncertainties, you are likely to over-invest or under-invest in infrastructure. Billions of dollars are being spent by way of response strategies. It is important that when governments take action, they do so in the most economic way," the WMO chief underlined.

As it is, sudden changes are being observed. For instance, the drastic springtime reduction in the ozone layer over the Antarctic. In central China, spectacular temperature variations were recorded in 1988 — temperatures plunged from 35 degrees Celsius to 0 degrees Celsius in a few days.

Moreover, the North American drought of 1988, when placed in historical context, was not the drought of the century even though the impacts may have been catastrophic. Meteorologists and hydrologists sift carefully through these climate anomalies to detect changes or climate trends.

If some of the current predictions regarding climate change were to come true, it would literally be devastating albeit for future generations. If current rate of emissions of GHGs continue to grow at 3 per cent per annum, rising temperatures could cause sea-level rises of 20 to 140 centimetres.

Small island nations like Maldives and Bahamas would be flooded and even the low lying areas like Bangladesh. If onshore winds were to be frequent, more ocean water will start flooding the land surface, which forms only 20 per cent of the earth's surface.

"Since 60 per cent of the world population lives near coastal areas, and many cities are located near the coast, the implications could be serious and disastrous, adding the ranks of environmental refugees," Obasi stated, noting that it is difficult to be confident about regional impacts.

Other implications can be increases in extreme weather events such as more intense tropical cyclones, floodings and droughts. Also affected will be hydropower installations and flood storage reservoirs and even river channels could get diverted — undermining sizeable investment in infrastructure.

Agriculture and food production may also suffer as it is probable that the grain growing areas in the middle latitudes may become more arid.

A major study suggests that global warming could have the effect of diminishing water supply overall. At the moment, 80 countries are said to be experiencing serious water shortages. Rise in sea level could affect river water, creating a new problem.

Already, ground water is quite polluted in a number of places, Obasi said. As pollutants have reached underground, it has been shown by analysis that ground water resources are no longer "pure".

In November, 1988, the WMO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) jointly established an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This panel has now become the focal point of governmental, non-governmental and research institutions interested in the issue of climate change.

Through its various working groups (science, impacts, and policy) the IPCC will submit a report August/September 1990. Recommendations concerning elements of a possible climate convention will also be contained in the report which will go to Second World Climate Conference (SWCC) to be held from 29 October to November 7, 1990.

The reports and recommendations of the SWCC and IPCC will then go to the United Nations General Assembly late November or early December. Based on input from these sources, the formal intergovernmental negotiations of a climate convention will be initiated by WMO and UNEP soon after the SWCC.

Following the signing of a climate convention expected by 1992 — when the UN Conference on Environment and Development is also scheduled to take place — intense and complex negotiations will begin on associated protocols to reduce emissions of specific GHGs, covering energy, methane, nitrous oxide and ozone.

While it is "premature" to judge the adequacy of the likely response strategies to climate change issues, Obasi said he was confident that the industrialised countries will be committing the required resources for the purpose.

Actress laments youth activism

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): Kyla Sedgwick, who plays the fiery activist Donna opposite Tom Cruise in Born On The Fourth Of July, gives her generation some high grades but mostly low marks when measured against the commitment of young people in the 1960s.

"Twenty years ago people my age (24) were more concerned about moral issues and humanity than they are today," she said.

"They believed they had the power to change things. I feel completely helpless and unable to change anything."

"I would love to have that passion and strong belief. They really did change things. They had a lot to do with stopping the Vietnam war. I believe that. I really do."

"They affected public opinion and forced government actions."

Sedgwick, the wife of actor Kevin Bacon and mother of a 1-year-old son, feels strongly about the ecology and environmental issues but laments the lack of passion for conservation among her peers.

"Young people are talking about becoming a less wasteful society and are more aware of how we're ruining the earth," she said, "but there's still a feeling of helplessness."

"When Donna was growing up, John Kennedy and Martin Luther King were killed, and they were huge events. My generation isn't as shocked because everyone is being shot — the president, the pope. It doesn't mean anything to us."

"Political killings are not an out-of-the-ordinary thing, so my generation is less sensitive to that. We feel the bureaucracy has gotten so thick and the government so all-controlling that we've lost hope in believing we can change things."

"Yet I really think we are making a start about doing something about the key issue of the day — the environment."

"We are coming together, trying to shake up government policy. We are going to stop buying products that pollute the atmosphere. It means changing lifestyles in this country."

Sedgwick said playing Donna developed her sense of awareness in the ability of ordinary citizens to make a difference in the conduct of their government.

"I learned a lot from Donna," she said. "I had to convince myself that one young woman could change things. I had to instill that belief in myself before I could be convincing as Donna. Now I believe much more than I did."

Unlike Donna, however, Sedgwick is not political activist.

For one thing, she doesn't have the time. In addition to co-starring in Born On The Fourth Of July, she recently completed playing the daughter of Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward in Mr and Mrs. Bridges.

When she isn't acting, Sedgwick accompanies her husband on his movie assignments. And, of course there is the baby to care for.

"I'm involved as deeply as I can be under the circumstances," she said.

She believes if Donna were her age today she would be just as vociferous about environmental change as she was opposed to the Vietnam war.

"The people of her generation who are still around feel a little bruised and battered, but they're still out there trying to make a difference," she said.

"Today's activists are not the same. They aren't into drugs like the activists of the 60s and 70s. They're more into physical fitness and health. I know I am."

"I like to think my generation is more thoughtful about planning for the future, that we're not just protesting but trying to find solutions to the problems we feel strongly about like abortion, AIDS and the ecology."

"There's no doubt I'm part of the yuppie generation. Nobody thinks of themselves as being yuppie, but I'm sure I am because I have all the things in life that define yuppies."

Hollywood more brutal these days

Ex-star Caron recalls the good old days

LOS ANGELES, (Reuters): Leslie Caron gazed out of her hotel room across to the Hollywood hills. "That is where I did my military service," she said wryly.

Caron, back in town to record dialogue for her latest film, "Courage Mountain," was remembering the days when she was a Hollywood superstar, whirling through a glittering series of hit musicals.

"Whenever studio you belonged to controlled your entire life," she said. "I spent nine years with MGM studio and then I hung up my dancing shoes and left town."

"Today my life is my own," she added.

In her wake in 1961 Caron left such films as "An American In Paris," which launched her film career, "Lili," "Gigi," "Fanny" and "Daddy Long Legs."

But even if "military service" was not always easy for the young French star, she seems to have few regrets.

"They were hard on the legs," she said of those musical films. "We were made to dance on concrete and that's no good when

you are in toe shoes for six hours a day. The concrete was covered with a glossy paint and I had to ask the studio to repaint it with sand because otherwise I would slip."

"But I loved 'Lili' and 'Gigi'. I loved 'The Glass Slipper'. There were some wonderful ballets in that," she said.

Caron, a film 58, demurely smoothed her conservative tweed skirt down her legs. "Hollywood now seems harder to me, more brutal than it was in my days," she said.

"Five men controlled Hollywood then and people like director Vincente Minnelli and Arthur Freed, who bought the film rights to 'Gigi', knew everything about a film."

"Now it is corporations and a chief for every department. Everything is more remote. I find that at the end of a film they even have a post-production director, something I had never heard of before."

Today, Caron, who lives in her native Paris and still adds a dash of French to her English, keeps very busy.

She has just completed two



Caron as Coco Chanel amidst beautiful models in the film 'The Man Who Lived at the Ritz'

films, playing the madame of a brothel in "Warriors And Captives" and a boarding school teacher in "Courage Mountain."

She played fashion designer Coco Chanel in a US television mini-series, "The Man Who Lived At The Ritz," and has completed another mini-series playing the wife of Lenin.

Her next project, she said, is to direct a film for the first time. "It

will be a comedy and I am setting it up right now," she said.

Caron was in town to dub the soundtrack for "Courage Mountain," a sequel to the 1937 film "Heidi" in which Shirley Temple played the orphaned heroine in the Alps.

That original film was followed by "Heidi And Peter" in 1952, "A Gift For Heidi" in 1955

and a version starring Maximilian Schell, Jean Simmons and Sir Michael Redgrave in 1958.

"Courage Mountain" takes over where the other pictures ended, with Heidi, played by 14-year-old British actress Juliette Caton, being forced to leave her boarding school in Italy to go into a rat-infested Italian orphanage at the start of World War One.

For Heidi's escape across the Alps from the orphanage, the film crew built a village on a deserted mountainside near the ski resort of Schlafming in Austria.

"I thought I could do something with the role of the school teacher, Jane Hillary, and her relationship with Heidi although I had never seen the earlier films or read the book," Caron said.

"There is very little left on the screen of what I intended to do. I intended to portray the school teacher as one of those exalted women who have a secret mission to teach."

"Filming was very rugged and we froze when the sun went down," she said.

Coyotes, beavers, foxes join human migration to grasslands of Florida

GAINESVILLE, Florida, (Reuters): Far from the lonely prairies of the western United States the eerie howl of the coyote can be heard rising at night from the grasslands of Florida.

Beavers are damming the state's streams and the wily red fox can occasionally be glimpsed, provided he doesn't see the observer first.

The coyotes and red foxes are not indigenous to southern areas of the US and beavers were hunted to extinction here in the last century.

Although human migrants to Florida gen-

erally come in search of sunshine, wildlife experts are not sure why the coyotes have made their way from the plains and forests of the west to the southeastern state. But whatever the reason, they can now be found in about three quarters of the state.

"Coyotes are generally thought of as a western creature. That's why people are surprised to hear they are here in Florida," said John Wooding, a researcher for the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

While these opportunistic animals are spotted only occasionally, many people have heard their hair-raising howls.

Wooding said most of the resourceful canines came to Florida through natural expansion, although some were brought in by hunters who wanted the "sport" of chasing them down with packs of dogs, which is illegal.

As for the far more numerous cases of natural expansion, Wooding speculates that the evolution of the country's eastern habitat from forest to broken farmland and pastures attracted small mammals, which in turn attracted coyotes, looking for natural prey.

Red foxes, another non-native species, have made their way into Florida.

John Eisenburg, a wildlife researcher at the

Florida State Museum in Gainesville, said foxes, like coyotes, are spreading into the state because the habitat has changed.

The once-continuous forests in Florida have given way to a mixture of forests and open pastures, the sort of habitat red foxes prefer.

Originally brought in from Europe in the 18th century for fox hunting — the English gentlemen of the period did not think the native grey foxes sufficiently sporting — the foxes were first released on New York's Long Island, Eisenburg said.

In Florida, the native grey variety still out-

number the red fox by 10 to one, although there is no exact count.

Eisenburg predicts a good future for the red fox in the open farm country here.

"As long as they stay out of mischief, they'll probably be all right," he said.

During the late 1800s beaver populations in Florida were wiped out by fur traders. But now these water-loving rodents are making a comeback in the state.

Mark Robson, a wildlife researcher with the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, has studied the resurgence of these natural aquatic engineers.

Increased legal protection, natural expansion and introduction programmes have helped beaver make their comeback in Florida, Robson said.

The factor that most strongly favours beaver holding their own in Florida, Robson said, is the maintenance of water sheds and prime beaver habitat, the state's streams and rivers.

To ensure that beaver, coyote and other species will continue to succeed in Florida, Robson said, new hunters in the state must be willing to help preserve as much natural habitat as possible.

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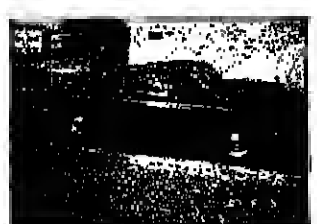
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SPORTS

GES hold BMW to 1-1 draw

THE first Kuwait Premier Soccer League match of the New Year was a competitive, though fairly fought contest. BMW opted to play a four man midfield in order to limit the space and time available to GES in that area of the park.

This tactic paid off in the tenth minute when Craft scored with an excellent lobbed shot from the edge of the penalty area. Taking heart from this opener, BMW continued to put pressure on Denaehey in the GES goal and should have extended their lead when a well-worked move down the right ended with Quigley receiving the ball in space in the GES box. He hesitated slightly allowing Denaehey to make a brave save at his feet.

In the second half, GES applied more and more pressure on the tiring BMW players. Their midfield began to work smoothly and they were providing their forwards with some excellent opportunities. Their equalising goal was, however, more of an effort when a GES player ran from half-way, evaded two tackles and made a one-two inside the box from which he scored from an acute angle.

For all their additional pressure, GES didn't find the net again and the game finished level, 1-1.

Mosa 3, KES 1

This game was regarded by many who watched as possibly the best game in the League so far. Both teams play open football and benefited from fast skillful wingers. Although the first half was goalless, the second half produced great excitement with 4 goals, a missed penalty and a lot of good football.

First to score was Mosa after a goalmouth scramble with Zuhair eventually hammering home. The second goal came from the penalty spot and gave Mosa a 2-0 lead with Mosa scoring. This was the first of three penalties awarded. Mosa put the game out of reach soon after with a magnificent strike by Abdullah from 25 yards out leaving Duedy in goal with no chance.

KES had a chance to pull one back with a penalty but Ismail hit it wide. However, KES got a late consolation goal with veteran Bill Whitman putting away the third penalty of the night.

A great game of football enjoyed by all who watched.

Salwa Villa 2, IBM 6

Tuesday night's only game was a high-scoring affair with some excellent football played by both sides.

IBM opened the scoring through Ziad, who placed a low shot past Smith in the Salwa goal. Within ten minutes, they had increased their lead with an almost identical goal from Mustafa. Salwa showed excellent resilience by coming back to level the score with two goals from Elliot and Hunt during a period where they started playing their more composed, flowing game, in answer to IBM's fast, one-touch approach.

IBM, however, regained the lead just before half-time through Mohi. In the second half, IBM's combination of extremely skillful individuals and coherent teamwork began to pay dividends. They opened the half with an excellent half-volleyed goal from Marwan and although Salwa were, by no means, lying down and accepting defeat, they were being subjected to constant attacks on the goal which saw IBM's Majidi and Mustapha complete the rout to run out convincing 6-2 winners.

Real Madrid hold on to beat Oviedo

MADRID, Jan 14, (Reuters): Spanish First Division leaders Real Madrid survived a fierce onslaught from Real Oviedo in the closing stages of their League match yesterday to win 1-0 away and stretch their lead at the top to seven points.

Emilio Butragueno put Real ahead with a neatly placed shot from close in after only 10 minutes.

But Oviedo quickly recovered their poise and their midfield trio of Bango, Berto and Vinals stamped their authority on the game.

Shot

Bango had a great chance to equalise a minute before the interval but Real goalkeeper Francisco Bufo had little trouble blocking his close range shot.

Real, prompted by fine attacking runs by Paco Llorente and Martin Vazquez, had their chances to build on their early lead after the break but the League leaders were eventually forced to defend in depth as the home side pressed hard for an equaliser.

In last night's only other First Division match, Real Sociedad beat Seville 2-1.

Australia on course for victory Taylor hits Pakistan for 101



Mark Taylor plays a pull shot off Wasim's bowling. (Reuters wirephoto)

MELBOURNE, Jan 14, (Reuters): Opener Mark Taylor maintained prolific form by his fifth century in his last 10 Tests to put Australia on course for victory in the first cricket Test against Pakistan today.

Taylor scored 101 and his captain Allan Border made an unbeaten 51 to push Australia's second innings to 260 for seven at the close of the third day. They lead by 376 with two days remaining.

Australia were on the verge of building an even more imposing advantage at 204 for two, but Taylor's dismissal at that total preceded a slump in which left-arm fast bowler Wasim Akram seized three wickets in seven deliveries.

Wasim, who took six for 62 in the first innings, dispatched Dean Jones, Steve Waugh and Peter Sleep in quick succession as Australia slipped to 220 for six.

However, Border and wicketkeeper Ian Healy, with 25, checked the slump in a stand of 40 that was broken at the end of the day by Wasim, who has taken four for 77.

When Australia, 116 ahead on

first innings, resumed at the overnight one for no wicket, Taylor and Geoff Marsh laid a solid foundation by putting on 73 -- their eighth stand of more than 50 since their partnership was forced against West Indies a year ago.

Marsh made 24 before edging a delivery from paceman Aaqib Javed to Wasim at first slip.

David Boon hit 21 before being run out after Taylor failed to respond to his call, both batsmen being stranded at one end of the pitch as wicketkeeper Salim Yousuf took the return and whipped off the balls.

Taylor's fine innings on a seaming pitch ended when off-spinner Tauseef Ahmed had him caught at square leg by Aamer Malik. The opener, who escaped on 16 when he cut a Waqar Younis delivery through the hands of Mansoor Akhtar at first slip, hit 11 boundaries.

After Taylor's departure, Pakistan gained a further measure of respite when Wasim struck his triple blow.

He first trapped Jones leg before for 10 and then had Waugh caught behind for three.

Sleep fell to Wasim's next delivery when he failed to put bat on a yorker and was bowled.

Border and Healy restored some stability, playing on past the scheduled closing time due to the slow over rate, before the wicketkeeper was caught hooking against Wasim and stumps were drawn.

Scoreboard

Australia first Innings 223 (M. Taylor 52, Wasim Akram six for 62)

Pakistan first Innings 107 (T. Alderman three for 30, C. Rackemann three for 32, M. Hughes three for 34)

Australia second Innings (overnight one for no wicket)

G. Marsh c Wasim b Aaqib.....24

M. Taylor c Aamer b Tauseef.....101

D. Boon run out.....21

A. Border not out.....51

D. Jones lbw b Wasim.....10

S. Waugh c Yousuf b Wasim.....3

P. Sleep b Wasim.....0

I. Healy c Elaz b Wasim.....25

Extras (b-2 lb-9 nb-14).....25

Total (seven wickets).....260

Fall of wickets: 1-73 2-115 3-204 4-216 5-220 6-227 7-260

Bowling (to date): Wasim Akram 32.3-9-77-4 (6nb), Aaqib Javed 20-1-52-1 (4nb), Imran 8-21-0 (1nb), Waqar Younis 14-4-41-0 (1nb), Tauseef Ahmed 16-3-58-1.



Wasim Akram in action during today's game. (Reuters wirephoto)

Capri, Gulf Group score wins

CAPRI C.C. beat YMCA C.C. by 16 runs in an exciting cricket match played at Al Riqqa Ground for the Goodyear Trophy, sponsored by Abdul-Hadi Al Mailem on Friday.

Capri after winning the toss decided to bat first in the cold chilly morning and opened thru Adnan and Naveed. Both batsmen concentrated on singles and doubles and occasionally hit boundaries, maintaining an average of 7 runs per over.

Chris was introduced into the attack and he struck immediately, when Adnan, well set for a big score, was comprehensively bowled for 30 runs and in the same over Naveed, playing well, was caught brilliantly by Ahmed at deep midwicket for 25 runs.

Capri after a fine 50 runs start in 7 overs, were bogged down by this fine over by Chris. Zia's dismissal further added to the frustration in Capri's camp when he was out, playing carefully to Ahmed, Sarfraz and Irfan. Irfan then took the over until the former became the third victim of Chris for 10 runs.

Bittu Singh came in to join Irfan and both tried to rescue Capri, especially Irfan who played some exciting shots and hit Chris for 12 runs in an over. However, Chris took his revenge by bowling him out for 22 runs. All hopes were on Bittu, who with his injured left hand steered Capri out of the woods and played a flawless captain's innings and remained unbeaten on 42 runs. He was assisted in latter overs by Khalid 11 runs and Nareesh 10 not out.

By the end of 26th over, when the time was called, Capri scored a respectable 164 for 6 wickets.

For YMCA, Chris bowled very well, claiming 4 wickets, while Ahmed and Jayantlal took one each.

YMCA started their innings on a bad note when Nasir living up to his reputation of breaking the opening partnership in his first over, bowled

a sizzler to Sajid who just managed to spoon it to Bittu for 1 run. At 28, Ajit was yorked by Nasir for 13 runs. Then came the match-building partnership for YMCA when Hafiz came to join Saleem and both started to score freely and maintained the required run-rate.

Hafiz was especially severe on the bowlers and played some big shots before getting bowled by Nareesh for 36. Saleem at the other end kept on with some chunky shots and was well set to take YMCA to victory, but the balance once again tilted in favour of Capri, when Bittu brought in Zia, who immediately ran through YMCA, first bowling Chris for 13 and Arun for a duck.

Saleem was run out in a mix-up for a fine 52 and with his dismissal all hopes of victory for YMCA were dashed. In the final over, which Zia bowled, YMCA required 8 runs to win but Zia kept a teasing length and bowled Jayantlal for 7 and Ahmed for a duck.

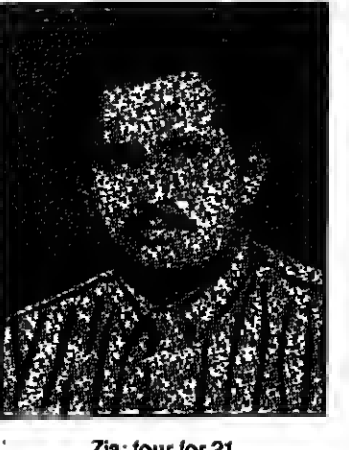
YMCA was all out for 148 runs. Zia who took 4 wickets for 21 runs. Nasir dismissed two batsmen and Sarfraz and Nareesh chipped in with

one each.

● Gulf Group scored two wins this week. In the first match they beat Alsham cricketers by 24 runs in the Agam Trophy at the Shuwaikh ground on Friday. Later in another match of the same trophy they thrashed OKCC by seven wickets.

Gulf Group won the toss and elected to bat. Jalil and Tahir opened the innings for Gulf Group. Both gave their team a good start. Jalil was out for 17 at the score of 40. Mushtaq Dadarkar joined Tahir and they took the score to 120 with a partnership of 80 runs. Mushtaq was out 37. He hit three fours. Tahir was the best in the form, playing some very good strokes and was the highest scorer with 55. He hit six fours. Gulf Group reached a respectable total of 170 in twenty-five overs.

Alsham cricketers could not face Gulf Group bowlers. Wickets kept falling at regular intervals. Only two of their batsmen could reach double figures. They finally reached a total of 96 for nine in 25 overs. For Gulf Group Salim Bashir and Hidayat took three wickets each. Mushtaq took two and Mustafa got



Zia: four for 21



Tahir: 55 runs



Mustaq: hit 60

Davis takes seven for 57 in W. Indies

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Jan 14, (Reuters): Paceman Winston Davis returned his best figures in West Indies domestic cricket to put the Windward Islands firmly in control in their Red Stripe Cup match against Trinidad and Tobago yesterday.

Davis took seven for 57 as Trinidad were bowled out for 211 in their second innings on the second day of their four-day match, leaving the Windward Islands needing only 83 for victory.

Davis, who captured 50 wickets for Northamptonshire in the English County Championship last season, took five for 30 on an 11-over spell after tea to pass his previous best figures of six for 54 against Guyana in 1983.

In Kingston where Barbados are playing Jamaica, Barbados Test batsman Carlisle Best added 33 to his overnight 142 before he was out four runs short of his highest first class score.

Former Test bowler Patrick Patterson took five for 59 as Barbados were bowled out for 423 in their first innings. Jamaica were 130 for two in reply at close of play.

Scores

In Kingston: Barbados 423 (Carlisle Best 175, Patrick Patterson five for 59). Jamaica 130 for two.

In Basseterre, St Kitts. Leeward Island 245 and 82 for two. Guyana 129.

In Pointe-A-Pierre: Trinidad and Tobago 108 and 211 (Renwick Bishop 50, Winston Davis seven for 57). Windward Islands 237.

Ryan proves his point in 2-2 draw at Liverpool

LONDON, Jan 14, (Reuters): Reserve team coach Jim Ryan stepped into English soccer man's shoes after matches played yesterday (tabulate under points), won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, played.

English Division One

Liverpool 22 12 7 4 46 25 43

Aston Villa 22 13 4 5 38 20 43

Arsenal 22 12 3 7 37 24 39

S.ampton 22 9 8 5 44 36 35

Notts County 22 9 6 7 32 23 33

Tottenham 22 9 6 7 32 23 33

Derby 22 9 5 8 29 19 32

Everton 22 9 5 8 29 19 32

Norwich 22 8 7 7 26 23 31

Sheff Wed 22 8 7 7 26 23 31

Coventry 22 8 4 9 18 28 31

Wimbledon 22 7 9 6 25 30 30

QPR 22 7 8 7 25 25 29

Cystal P 22 7 5 10 26 44 26

Sheff Wed 22 6 10 27 31 24

Manch City 22 6 10 19 31 24

Sheff Wed 22 6 5 11 24 23

Manch City 22 5 7 10 29 22

Millwall 22 5 9 9 24 32 21



Villa's Ian Olney (left) and Andy Peake of Charlton try to head the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Anfield in the 72nd minute when winger Kingsley Black equalised with a powerful cross-shot.

Two minutes later 19-year-old Kurt Nogan, making his first team debut after being elevated by Ryan from the reserves, stunned the crowd when he belatedly on a pass from Black to shoot the underdogs into a 2-1 lead.

Liverpool's response was typically swift. Steve Nicol netting his fifth goal of the season within two minutes to stretch his side's unbeaten record to 10 games.

But the 2-2 draw was a moral victory for Ryan and a morale booster for second-placed Aston Villa, who won 2-0 at bottom club Charlton to reduce Liverpool's First Division lead from two points to goal difference.

Ryan, who won a European Cup winners' medal with Manchester United in 1968, was as laid back after the match as he was bold before it.

"I'm very pleased," he said, understating the case. "It's difficult to come here and take anything away but I'm very pleased. I feel the team played for me."

About Nogan's contribution he added: "It was real Roy of the Rovers stuff for Kurt to get a

goal, and at Anfield of all places."

Predictably, Liverpool boss Kenny Dalglish was less pleased. "I'm disappointed at the result and the performance," he said.

"We never should have allowed them back in. We have only ourselves to blame because our 'keeper never made a save in the whole game."

Villa moved level on 43 points with Liverpool after defender Derek Mounfield and an own goal from Joe McLaughlin sealed their 12th win in 15 games.

But third-placed Arsenal lost ground as they went down 1-0 at Wimbledon. Mickey Bennett scoring the winner two minutes from time after Arsenal's England full back Nigel Winterburn was carried off with a suspected broken leg.

The champions are now four points off the pace while fourth-placed Southampton also faltered by being held to a 2-2 draw at home by Everton.

Former Ipswich and England

Hovenkamp takes Dutch past Italians

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Jan 14, (AP): A goal from midfield by fullback Hovenkamp sparked the Netherlands to a 2-1 victory over Italy yesterday in the opening round of the Masters Cup tournament of former soccer greats held in South America's largest city.

Hovenkamp's goal came in the 35th minute of the first half when he picked up the loose ball at midfield and launched a high arcing shot that caught goalie Coparoni flat-footed and sailed into the upper corner of the net.

Dutch striker John Rep scored what turned out to be the game-winner in the 60th minute when he took a cross in front of the Italian goal on a counterattack and banged it into an open net to give his team a 2-0 lead.

A crowd of some 6,500 fans at Caninde Stadium in Sao Paulo watched the Dutch and Italian squads hook up in an even match, with senior stars from both teams showing flashes of their former glory.

Both teams, visibly tired by the 100-degree F (38C) Southern Hemisphere summer heat, played cautiously in the opening half, hanging back and marking tightly on defense.

Italy applied steady offensive pressure in the opening stanza. But Netherlands goalie Schrijvers, the star of the contest, made four spectacular saves to keep his squad in the contest.

The Dutch team, without stars Neeskens, Resenbrink, Krol and Cruyff who guided the famous World Cup squads of 1974 and 1978, picked up the tempo on offense in the first 20 minutes of the second half.

Note: Forfar was deducted two points for fielding an ineligible player.

Scottish Division Two

Brechin 22 12 5 5 32 22 29

Stirling 22 12 4 7 45 31 28

Stenhousemuir 22 12 4 7 35 27 28

Dunbarton 22 9 8 5 44 36 28

Arbroath 22 8 6 8 28 30 24

Kilmarnock 22 10 8 9 30 23 23

Queen's Park 22 8 9 26 31 22

East Fife 22 6 9 7 36 34 21

Queen of S 22 8 5 9 41 44 21

Stirling 22 7 6 9 32 37 20

Montrose 22 6 7 10 35 19

Berwick 22 7 4 12 37 19

Cowden 22 5 8 10 27 34 18

E Silling 22 6 5 11 21 35 17

defender Russell Osman scored twice for Southampton while Northern Ireland international Norman Whiteside netted a minute either side of half-time for the visitors.

Manchester United's stand-in captain Steve Bruce and his Derby counterpart Mark Wright were sent off at Old Trafford as United lost 2-1 and slipped closer to the relegation battle.

In Scotland, Celtic lost ground in the race for the Premier Division title when they crashed 2-0 at Dundee United. Paddy Connolly was United's hero, scoring twice in the final 10 minutes of the first half.

Rangers beat bottom club Dundee 3-0 to lead the standings with 33 points -- four ahead of Aberdeen, who crushed Dunfermline 4-1, six clear of Hearts and eight ahead of Celtic.

Scotland's top scorer Ally McCoist put Rangers ahead after 21 minutes. Davie Dodds and Mo Johnston added two more in the second half.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Giant Slalom

VALBADIA, Italy, Jan 14. (AP): Richard Kross, a late starter as No. 34, today scored his first-ever World Cup victory as he led an Austrian sweep in a Giant Slalom race at this dolomite resort. He edged Austrian teammates Gunther Mader, who placed second, and Rudolf Nierlich and Hubert Strolz, who were tied in third place.

Boxing tourney

ISLAMABAD, Jan 14. (Kuna): Pakistan Army won the first international boxing championship organised in Karachi, by the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation, at KGA Ground in Karachi last night.

Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Jan 14. (Reuters): Australian Open organisers will allow anti-apartheid groups to hoist banners and attach black balloons to the net on centre court to prevent demonstrators disrupting the tennis championship for the third year running. Tennis Australia said today it had come to an agreement with the anti-apartheid movement and unions who had threatened to disrupt food and drink deliveries to the National Tennis Centre and ban the operation of the centre court's moving roof.

Atlanta coach

ATLANTA, Jan 14. (AP): Former Houston Oilers coach Jerry Glavin will be named head coach of the Atlanta Falcons, according to a published report. The Atlanta Journal and the Atlanta Constitution reported that Glavin, who left the Oilers after reaching an agreement with owner Bud Adams to forego the final of his contract, would be named by the Falcons soon.

Japan Bowl

YOKOHAMA, Japan, Jan 14. (AP): The East capitalized on West fumbles for two touchdowns, including a diving catch by Tony Moss of Louisiana state on a 31-yard pass from Florida State's Peter Tom Willis, and beat a team of West American college football all-stars 24-10 today in the Japan Bowl.

Nagurski buried

INTERNATIONAL FALLS, Minnesota, Jan 14. (AP): Brock Nagurski, one of football's first stars, was remembered at his funeral yesterday as a man who used his talents to the best of his ability to enrich the lives of people around him. The Rev. Dennis Deis made little mention of Nagurski's athletic exploits during a eulogy at St. Thomas Catholic Church. But many in the crowd of several hundred swapped stories about Nagurski after the one-hour service.

NHL games

NEW YORK, Jan 14. (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday:

Buffalo	5	Vancouver	3
Philadelphia	2	Montreal	2
New Jersey	4	Ottawa	3
NY Islanders	4	Washington	2
NY Rangers	3	Boston	2
Toronto	6	Calgary	5
Minnesota	6	Detroit	4
Hartford	6	Los Angeles	3

Horzog triumphs

TOKYO, Jan 14. (AP): Austrian Werner Horzog, overall winner of last week's Victoria Cup, won the Giant Slalom today in the Lucky Strike Cup, the fourth in a series of 12 dual race meets on Japan's Pro Ski Tour.

Boldklub win

CALCUTTA, India, Jan 14. (AP): Lyngby Boldklub defeated an Indian soccer club, Salgaocar, 3-0 and won a semifinal berth in the Jawaharlal Nehru International tournament.

Soviet players

ROTTERDAM, Holland, Jan 14. (UPI): Sergei Krutov and Valeri Maslennikov of Soviet soccer club CSKA Moscow arrived this week for trials with Vitesse Arnhem in the Dutch First Division.

Plans hampered

LONDON, Jan 14. (UPI): Three-times Winter Olympics Giant Slalom champion Divina Galica's plans to return to international skiing after 16 years motor racing, have been hampered by the mild winter, according to reports yesterday.

Players fined

COPENHAGEN, Jan 14. (UPI): Danish international soccer players Brian Laudrup and Jan Bartram have been fined by their West German club Bayer Uerdingen for taking part in an indoor tournament without permission, Danish daily Jyllands-Posten reported yesterday.

Italian soccer

ROME, Jan 14. (Reuters): Results of Italian First Division soccer matches today:

Ascoli	1	Roma	1
Atalanta	0	Lecco	2
Bari	0	Sampdoria	2
Cesena	1	Cremone	2
Genoa	1	Fiorantina	1
Internazionale	3	Bologna	1
Juventus	2	Brescia	0
Lazio	1	AC Milan	3
Udinese	2	Napoli	2

French yachtsman

PARIS, Jan 14. (UPI): French yachtsman Alain Gautier says he will remain in the solo round-the-world Globe Challenge despite most problems that have forced to remove his mainsail. With a mast support bar broken, Gautier says, "the mast runs the risk of breaking, especially with a tail wind."

BRIDGE

THE weekly Dumbill Bridge Tournament will be played as usual this evening at the Messiah Beach Hotel. The games will be preceded by a condolence meeting for the deceased soul of Dr Marcel Zammit, a top Kuwait bridge player who died late Wednesday evening.

Zvereva takes women's title

Noah wins NSW Open



Noah holds aloft the trophy after beating Steeb. (Reuters wirephoto)

SYDNEY, Jan 14. (Reuters): Frenchman Yannick Noah completed one of the most satisfying weeks of his career today by beating Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany 5-7 6-3 6-4 in the New South Wales Open tennis final.

Noah, ranked 21st in the world, followed up his inspired defeats of world number one Ivan Lendl and American Aaron Krickstein with a fine victory over Steeb, conqueror of Boris Becker and Mats Wilander in his previous two matches.

It was Noah's first tournament win since February 1988 when he defeated Jimmy Connors in Milan, and backed the Frenchman's claim a few days ago that he could be a good bet at the Australian Open starting in Melbourne on Monday.

Eighth seed Noah had to survive several anxious moments, notably in the first set when Steeb, seeded seven, reeled off five games in a row after trailing 5-2.

Having conceded his first set of the tournament, Noah responded by taking the second set 6-3 and then broke Steeb's serve in the first game of the third.

Steeb was far from finished, breaking back for 3-3 to force Noah to dig deep into his reserves of energy.

But the Frenchman's powerful serve came to his aid when he most needed it as he blasted his 10th ace of the match to clinch

victory. Noah, who dedicated his win to his watching girlfriend Erica, was understandably happy afterwards: "Last year was the first year of my career when I didn't win a tournament so it is great to start the year well," he said.

"I feel I can beat almost anyone even though there are still a lot of things I can improve."

A disappointed Steeb agreed that Noah was playing well enough to bother the top seeds at the Australian Open.

"He's improved his form and he is very confident. Everyone knows that he can beat anybody," said Steeb.

Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union earlier collected her second title in the space of eight days when she beat Austria's Barbara Paulus 4-6 6-1 6-3 in a fluctuating women's final.

Zvereva was following her success in the Australian Hardcourt Championships in Brisbane.

After a tentative start, the Soviet rediscovered her touch in the second set and then cruised to a 5-1 lead in the third.

Paulus made a brave attempt at a fightback but Zvereva conquered her nerves to wrap up victory in 105 minutes.

"To win two tournaments in a row is amazing," said Zvereva. "I felt mentally drained but luckily relief seemed to arrive in the second set."

Davis defeats Strange on 2nd playoff hole

GOLD COAST, Australia, Jan 14. (Reuters): Australia's Rodger Davis hit one of the best golf shots of his life, a three iron to the green on the second hole of a play-off, to beat Curtis Strange and win the Palm Meadows Cup today.

The two players finished regulation play on 271, 17-under-par, two shots ahead of Australian Mike Harwood.

After the American holed a difficult putt on the first play-off hole, Davis decided it was all or nothing on the par five 18th.

He boomed his drive over a lake and then fired a three iron about 240 metres across more water to within four metres of the hole.

Strange, who drove for safety, narrowly missed chipping in for a birdie but Davis made sure it did not matter by holing his eagle putt and claiming a cheque for \$110,000.

"It was one of my best shots ever," he said of the three iron. "I struck it with both feet off the ground and I knew it was cold as soon as I saw it drifting towards the flag."

Strange started the day three shots ahead of Davis following the self-disqualification of world number one Greg Norman yesterday. Norman withdrew after he realised he had unknowingly broken golfing rules about ball placement on Thursday.

But Strange, the 1988 US Open champion, suffered a costly double bogey at the fifth and Davis drew level with a birdie on the ninth. The Australian went ahead with a birdie on the 13th, but slipped back to 17-under soon afterwards.



Yannick Noah does a headstand to celebrate the winning of a point. (Reuters wirephoto)

Davis shrugs off protest to overcome Chesnokov

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 14. (Reuters): Californian Scott Davis made a mockery of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) rankings today by beating world number 18 Andrei Chesnokov to take the New Zealand Open title.

Davis overcame a tantrum and a second day of chanting by anti-apartheid protesters to beat the Soviet player, top seed in the tournament, 4-6 6-3 6-3 in the final.

Chesnokov, 34 places above eighth-seeded Davis in the ATP rankings, destroyed his chances of victory after a sudden change of rackets midway through the \$150,000 tournament.

Davis shrugged off the noise of protesters, who shouted slogans against his playing in South Africa over megaphones from outside the stadium. But his own temper got the better of him in the first set.

He twice broke Chesnokov's serve in the first set but towards the end became so touchy about line calling that he sat in his chair and resisted the umpire's call that he had 15 seconds to return to play.

After a court violation warning from the umpire, Davis took his place and avoided conceding a game.

Davis, who apologised for his behaviour to the crowd after the match, was tougher than Chesnokov on service, more accurate on passing shots and deadlier on the volley. In short his victory was more decisive than the score suggested.

Pre-World War Two Wimbledon great Fred Perry said Chesnokov had himself to blame for his loss because he bought five new Prince rackets in Auckland. "That boy was nuts to change his rackets midway through this tournament."

Celtics trounce Heat

MIAMI, Jan 14. (AP): Larry Bird returned to the lineup, but Robert Parish and Kevin McHale carried the load as the Boston Celtics handed Miami its 13th consecutive loss — the longest in the NBA this season — beating the Heat 105-96 yesterday.

The Heat's losing streak is the second-longest in the franchise's two-year history. Miami lost its first 17 games last season.

Parish scored 30 points and McHale 26, including three baskets in a 9-0 run spurt midway through the fourth quarter. Bird, who saw his first action in five games, started and scored 14 points. He had not played since spraining his left ankle Jan 5 against the Los Angeles Clippers.

76 ers 120, Bulls 101

Charles Barkley scored 22 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as Philadelphia handed Washington its 10th loss in 12 games.

Mike Gminski added 20

points, Johnny Dawkins 19, Ron Anderson 15, Hershey Hawkins 13 and Bob Thornton 10 for the 76ers, who had lost five of their previous seven road games.

Dawkins had 11 assists for Philadelphia, which had not won at the Capital Centre since Nov 22, 1988.

Cavaliers 98, Nets 96

John "Hot Rod" Williams sank two foul shots with one second remaining as Cleveland ended New Jersey's longest winning streak in nearly two years.

The victory was the fourth in five games for the Cavaliers, who have beaten the Nets nine times in a row.

Results

Boston	105	Miami	96
Indiana	111	Milwaukee	109
New York	107	San Antonio	101
Cleveland	98	New Jersey	96
Detroit	111	Portland	106
Philadelphia	120	Washington	101
Chicago	117	L.A. Clippers	111
Utah	109	Dallas	99
Phoenix	110	Denver	111
Seattle	113	Atlanta	106
Golden State	138	Orlando	127

McEnroe not ruling out Open victory

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 14. (AP): More than five years after John McEnroe won his last Grand Slam title, he isn't fooling himself about his chances of another, as the Australian Open begins tomorrow.

He doesn't rule himself out of this "crap-shoot" of a tournament, as he calls it after a week when he beat No. 3 Stefan Edberg and other players upset No. 1 Ivan Lendl and No. 2 Boris Becker.

But McEnroe, who turns 31 next month, knows he'll need more than luck to survive two weeks of roaches in a stadium whose hard courts reach temperatures far above the 100 degree Fahrenheit (37-Celsius) heat often recorded outside.

"If you go out there and it is 140 degrees on the court, anything could happen," McEnroe says. "But if conditions are good, I give myself a chance. I feel I'm hitting the ball well, but I couldn't play six or seven matches in a row at my best in that heat."

"It is the fit guys who are probably going to do well," he says. "Fitness is going to be a bigger advantage rather than form, because not too many guys are going to be at their best form."

But some guys are going to be very fit after having some time of back working on getting themselves back into shape."

McEnroe, seeded fourth after an erratic but successful comeback year, boosted his confidence by beating Edberg yesterday in the finals of an exhibition tournament in sweltering, humid Adelaide.

In several of his matches, McEnroe seemed quicker than last year and showed flashes of his once-dominating game: hard, deep, angled serves, deft, soft-touch volleys and superb anticipation of shots.

It was a style that brought him three Wimbledon and four US Open titles, the last in 1984. He has played the Australian only twice before, getting as far as the semifinals in 1983 and the quarterfinals in 1985.

In winning at Adelaide, he kept his famous temper under control, but still let himself get rattled by calls. He would complain a little, talk to himself, make a few shots, but then come out of it in time to win.

John McEnroe



John McEnroe

Zero Down stay ahead

WITH the Mouchel Monday Darts League action not re-starting until tonight, centre stage this week goes to the Wednesday League Ladies teams. Zero Down finished the eighties exactly where they wanted to be — top of the league, and began the nineties by keeping ahead of the pack thanks to a resounding 4-0 defeat of Fintas Floosies.

Although grateful to the Floosies when their unexpected week 11 success over Bulls Hitters opened the way for Zero Down to return to the lead, there was no mercy shown as another good Pat D Mello performance, crowned by a 4 bull throw in the Mickey Mouse, gave her side a maximum leg score win.

Seven successive wins by Barb Edwards came to an end, as reigning champions Filles showed something of their true form at last, to win for the first time since mid-October. This all-owed Bulls Hitters to retake 2nd place, Margaret Watson making her third trophy winning shot of the season, and, although

opponents Northern Lights were completely outplayed, Karen McGowan did register 3 MM bulls as a consolation. Lady Tossers also move up a place after an important game at former league leaders, Pacifics, who have now won only one of their last 5 games. Jean Hromatka becoming the third Lady Tossers to earn her trophy with a 114 score.

Two wins in a row by Middle Eastenders has seen them recover from a disastrous slump which saw them drop from joint top to 10th place in just 5 weeks. This week's win also dented Fintas's own ambitions, as with games in hand they could have caught the leading group. Aven-gers' run is now 6 without defeat, as they begin to improve on a poor early season performance, outplaying Jabraja Grabbers after an initial double one epic.

After two seasons of trying, in both Monday and Wednesday Leagues, Chucklers' Helen Wilson emerged triumphantly from the Nibblers match with not just one but two trophy winning scores — a 116 and 3MM bulls.

Unable to carry Chucklers by herself however, Nibblers took the points and two scoring MM trebles for Jean Seaton. Jackie Moss had three hulls for the second time this year to close out a MM leg, as she led Blackouts to a narrow win over leading draw specialists Human Beans. Equalisers could find no such inspiration at Absolutely when two dropped points could prove very costly, despite their games in hand. Finally, on a week when there were no drawn games at all, Mugs Away took full advantage of Two Ply's poor season, to take a maximum score victory and ensure that all the bottom 5 teams lost again.

The following is a full summary of Mouchel Ladies Wednesday Darts League results for last week:

Nibblers	3	Chucklers	1
M. Eastenders	3	Fintas	1
Blackouts	3	Human Beans	1
Two Ply	0	Mugs Away	4
Filles	3	Barbed C.	1
Northern L.	0	Bulls Hitters	4
Jabraja G.	0	Aven-gers	4
Absolutely	3	Equalisers	1
Lady Tossers	3	Pat D Mello	3
Fintas F	0	Zero Down	4

Vatnen retains lead

PARIS, Jan 14. (Reuters): Ari Vatnen and Bjorn Waldegaard got lost in the Mauritanian desert in the Paris-Dakar rally yesterday but retained top two places overall for Peugeot despite finishing over an hour behind the Lada of Belgian Jacky Ickx.

Ickx, who won the marathon rally in 1983, triumphed in the arduous 738-kilometre 15th stage from Nema to Tidjikja ahead of Lada team mate Jerome Riviere of France.

Peugeot, so dominant until yesterday with their four cars filling top four places, were for once scattered in disarray but Finnish defending

champion Vatnen remained in command overall, more than an hour clear of Swedish team mate Waldegaard.

The daunting Nega Pass, 150 kms from Tidjikja, proved the undoing of Frenchman Philippe Wambert, third overall at the start of the stage.

Wambert gave up the race, with his Peugeot 205 buried in sand up to the doors and his clutch broken.

Waldegaard finished one hour 20 minutes behind Ickx but five minutes ahead of Vatnen in a stage which included a 458-km special timed section.

Coe scores easy 800 metres victory

SYDNEY, Jan 14. (Reuters): England's Sebastian Coe, more relaxed than he has been since the 1984 Olympics, cruised to victory in an 800 metres race today, the final warm-up before his Commonwealth Games swan-song.

The dual 1,500 metres Olympic gold medalist in Los Angeles clocked one minute 47.66 seconds, about four seconds outside what Coe believes will be necessary to win the 800 metres in Auckland.

He will also race in the 1,500 metres in what will be his final championships before pursuing a career in politics.

Olympic silver medalist Linford Christie won the 100 metres at the pre-games meeting with the minimum of effort in 10.39 seconds, but world indoor champion John Regis had to settle for second in the 200 metres behind fellow Englishman Marcus Adam.

Australia's Sue Howland, gold medalist at the 1982 Brisbane Games, won the javelin, while England's Olympic silver medalist Fatima Whitbread only managed fourth on her return from a shoulder operation.

Colin Jackson of Wales decided not to risk a run in the 110 metres hurdles after developing cramp in the warm-up and Australian Olympic gold medalist Debbie Flintoff-King pulled out of the 400 metres hurdles.

Australian Kerry Saxby set her 21st world best time, taking an amazing 17 seconds off her own five-kilometre walk mark.

After emerging fourth from the break in the 800 metres, Coe led through the bell and began to stretch away in typical fashion with 300 metres to go.

Only Scotland's Brian Whittle, normally a 400 metres runner, stayed with Coe but the Englishman kicked away to win by five metres.

"I felt comfortable, it was a nice race — I feel about as relaxed as I've been since 1984," Coe said later. "I'm not interested in times. One minute 47 seconds is pretty meaningless in world terms but I'm satisfied with my 52-second last lap."

Saxby, an unbackable favourite for the 10-km event at the Games starting on January 24, clocked 20:17.19 compared

with her previous mark of 20:32.75.

Christie was out of blocks first and built up a two-metre lead halfway down the straight. He eased back and coasted home from Australia's Tim Jackson.

The Englishman showed his true speed by anchoring his country to victory in the 4x100 metres relay. Australia's Fred Martin received the baton with about a 10-metre lead but Christie surged through to snatch victory for England.

Kenya are expected to win a host of medals in the middle distance events in Auckland but their one competitor today, Yobes Ondieki, finished a disappointing seventh in the 3,000 metres.

Ondieki ran a blistering second lap to open up a five-metre gap but suddenly tired, handing the race to Australia's Pat Carroll.

"I'm in shape but I need speed and I've also been training too hard," Ondieki said later. "What I need is a bit of rest and I'll be okay. I haven't had many races to sharpen up and unfortunately I don't have much time left."



Coe (No. 1) leads the field during the 800 metres event. (Reuters wirephoto)

Yuh retains crown

SEOUL, Jan 14. (Reuters): South Korea's Yuh Myung-Woo retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-flyweight crown today when the referee stopped his fight with Japan's Hisashi Tokushima in the seventh of 12 scheduled rounds.

"It was Yuh's 14th successful defence of the title he took from Joey Olivo of the United States in December 1985."

After the bout Yuh was already looking forward to the next mandatory title defence against Leo Gamez, the first-ranked contender from Venezuela.

"Then I hoped to fight WBC (World Boxing Council) champion (Humberto) Gonzalez for a unified title," Yuh said. Yuh gained the upper hand in the third round when he knocked Tokushima to his knees.

By the end of the sixth Tokushima had stumbled to the canvas five times, unable to avoid the flurry of Yuh's punches to his face and head. The Japanese still refused to surrender, but the referee stopped the fight after Tokushima took several punishing blows to his head and then fell to the floor when he swung wildly at Yuh and missed.

Sri Lankans win match

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 14. (Reuters): Left spinner Simon Fuchs snapped up five for 47 to shake Sri Lanka before their blushes were spared with victory by 35 runs over a South Australian Country XI at Port Lincoln near here on Sunday.

Fuchs helped to dismiss the touring team for 170 in 49 of their 50 overs in the one-day match. The country side were restricted to 135 for nine.

In his first senior representative appearance, 19-year-old Fuchs found enough help in the pitch to baffle the Sri Lankans, and his haul

included Test pair Aravinda de Silva and Ravin Ratnayake.

"I suppose it was good for me to know that I was not as good as I thought I was," Fuchs said modestly. "My wrong 'un had them a bit bewildered though."

Fourth wicket pair Darren Lehmann (45) and John Mosey (35) made the Country XI's victory hopes but once their stand was broken, wicket-keeper Ranjith Madurasinghe, who was out for 38, and occasional bowler Suresh Jayasuriya, who had three for seven, took charge.